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Fourth Islamic-Christian Dialogue Opens in Amman

JN1901081194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jan 94 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The Fourth Islamic-Christian Dialogue opened in Amman Tuesday [18 January] with a call from Jordan on scholars and laymen alike to safeguard religion as a source of justice and good deeds.

"We have a duty to isolate religion from and keep it safe against political upheavals, whims and changes so that the people will not lose confidence in their faith or suspect religious teachings," said Nasir-al-Din al-Asad, president of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al-Bayt Foundation).

Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, at the opening of the three-day meeting, Dr. al-Asad said Muslim scholars and the heads of the Christian faith have contributed towards bringing closer together the views of the two sides and achieving better understanding between them.

It is hoped that these dialogues in which many senior personalities from the two faiths and their societies participate would help scrutinise those issues that have remained outstanding and unclear and open the way for a better comprehension of the principles on which the two religions are based, said Dr. al-Asad.

Commenting on Jordan's endeavours to protect the holy places in Jerusalem under the Hashemite rule, Dr. al-Asad referred in particular to the recent royal decree for the formation of a commission to handle the affairs of the holy city, grouping Christian and Muslim individuals.

He noted that the present dialogue is dedicated to discussing religions' stand vis-a-vis nationalities, adding that religions do not conflict with nationalistic feelings, but rather advocate ending extremism, ethnic differences and other forms of conflicts.

Cardinal Francis Arinze, president of the Vatican Council on Promoting Relations with other faiths, who is attending the meetings, told the first session that Christianity does not oppose positive nationalities which do not oppose the law of God. Christianity, he said, rather opposes those feelings of superiority over other ethnic groups because such feelings transform nationality into oppressive movements that work against man and God.

A total of 65 scholars are participating in the discussions held at the King 'Abdallah Mosque in Amman.

They are all scholars from Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, Bosnia, Turkey, Senegal, Sudan, Morocco, Syria, Lebanon, the United Kingdom, the United States, Malaysia, Spain, Nigeria and France.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Security, Civilian Affairs Committees Conclude Talks

Israel Said Demanding 'Security Belt'

TA1901153194 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Jan 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Moti Bassok and On Levi]

[Excerpts] Israel is demanding in the Taba talks the setting up of a security belt around the Qatif Bloc settlements, which would increase the territory to be left under its control to 46 square kms. The Palestinians agree to Israeli control over an area of 19 to 20 square kms. It was finally agreed yesterday that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will meet in Oslo on Saturday in a further attempt to break the deadlock in the Taba talks.

It was learned yesterday that contrary to announcements by Israeli spokesmen there is a sharp dispute between Israel and the Palestinians on the size of the Israeli autonomy area in the Qatif Bloc. Israel is demanding that in addition to the territories of the settlements and the areas in between them, it will have control of a security belt that would "wrap" the settlements from outside. Israel is demanding overall 46 square kms. The Palestinians are opposed to this and are agreeing to leaving some 19 to 20 square kms with Israel. [passage omitted]

The Security Committee in the Taba talks has still not found a compromise formula for control of the border crossings. Some progress was made in the Civilian Affairs Committee, headed by Brigadier General Gadi Zohar. It was decided to set up a single dialing area for the autonomy and to frank a Palestinian stamp.

Senior sources in the Israeli delegation said last night that "there would be no Israeli compromise on the crossings issue. Israel went a long way toward the Palestinians on that issue and we now expect them to show flexibility." [passage omitted]

Shahaq: Talks on Border Crossings 'Stuck'

TA1901151894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation to the Taba talks, said a short while ago that the negotiations on the border crossings were stuck. Shahaq asserted that the disagreements between the parties centered on security arrangements at the crossings. Our correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports from Taba:

[Begin recording] [Semrik] Major General Amnon Shahaq, in his first public announcement this week, made it clear that the issue of the border crossings remained stuck. This, after an initial round of talks at Taba, the subsequent understandings reached at Oslo, Paris, and Cairo, and even after two days of negotiations at Taba this week.

[Shahaq] As for the security issues, we are still stuck on the issue of the border crossings. We are currently still trying to find ways to achieve maximum understanding and agreement; however, there are several matters of principle on which we disagree with the Palestinian delegation. We regard these issues as crucial to maintain the level of security we desire. There are several issues pertaining to the border crossings themselves which are tied to security arrangements. The disagreements between the two parties focus on these issues.

[Semrik] Do you think that the intervention of the prime minister and Yasir 'Arafat will be necessary on these issues?

[Shahaq] In my opinion, both parties are familiar with each other's position on the issue of the border crossings. We know what the Palestinians want and they know what we want. We have to find a way to agree or else there can be no accord. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 19 January adds that "Major General Shahaq told our correspondent Moti Amir that the document detailing the points of agreement and disagreement between the two parties will be passed up to higher echelons. In the committee on civilian affairs, agreement was reached on transferring 25 out of the 35 Civil Administration offices to Palestinian control."]

Israelis Consider Palestinian Crossings Proposal

TA1901164094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] The Israeli Taba delegation is currently holding consultations after Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, submitted a new proposal regarding the border crossings issue. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports from Taba:

Over the last hour there were several developments here in Taba. At present there is a break in the discussions of the Security Affairs Committee. The Israeli representatives are holding consultations with Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation, and perhaps with Jerusalem as well, over a new proposal submitted by Dr. Nabil Sha'th a short time ago.

The Palestinian representatives in the committee were also summoned for consultations by Dr. Sha'th a short time ago. The only issue under discussion at the present time is the border crossings issue, which has been defined here as the key to all the security related issues under negotiations in Taba.

A senior source in the Palestinian delegation noted the new proposal on the border crossings issue submitted to Israel includes all the understandings attained in Oslo and Cairo, and is also based on the joint working paper formulated by representatives of the two delegations on the agreements and disagreements on this issue. According to the source the new proposal provides answers to all the security problems on the border crossings. In his opinion the Israeli representatives are delaying their answer to the proposal due to internal debates within the delegation, or due to other reasons which have to do with their desire to prevent the continuation of the discussions in the Security Affairs Committee.

According to the source, the Palestinian representatives in the committee have a full mandate from Yasir 'Arafat to attain an agreement on the border crossings issue. He added: This is precisely how we acted when we submitted the proposal and we do not need to ask Tunis anything.

Altogether it appears that the negotiations over the border crossings are stuck. Dr. Nabil Sha'th a short time ago confirmed he will travel to Cairo for a meeting with 'Arafat tomorrow morning. Later he will travel with 'Arafat to Oslo, where they are slated to meet Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on Friday [21 January]. Sha'th said that as far as he is concerned the committees can continue their work tomorrow without the attendance of the delegation heads. Incidentally, Maj. Gen. Shahaq will apparently also travel to the Oslo meeting.

Palestinians View Israeli Reaction to Proposal

TA1901200394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks is perusing a document including Israel's reaction to Nabil Sha'th's new proposal on the border crossings issue.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports the Taba talks on the security issue have ended in a positive atmosphere. The Civilian Affairs Committee is continuing with its discussions.

Sha'th: No Agreement Yet on Crossings

NC2001071394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Taba, 19 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, has stated that the Egyptian role is very important and something the Palestinians and the Israelis always want.

In a statement today, Dr. Sha'th said 'Arafat will ask President Husni Mubarak for Egyptian support for the peace process when they meet in Cairo tomorrow.

He pointed out that the Palestinian and Israeli delegations to the Security Affairs Committee reached no agreement on the crossings today. He noted that the Palestinian delegation submitted a written proposal setting out the points of agreement and disagreement on the crossings so that the two delegations would not have to discuss the issue from the beginning every time and so that the points of agreement and disagreement could be submitted to the political leaders of the two delegations to try to resolve them. The Israelis will respond to the Palestinian proposal tomorrow.

Dr. Sha'th said the Civilian Affairs Committee today discussed the water issue, saying that it is a difficult problem, particularly with regard to Gaza, requiring a concrete solution.

He affirmed that the Palestinian delegation submitted no new papers or proposals on the crossings in Gaza and Jericho or the border points between Egypt and Gaza and between Jordan and Jericho. He said the Israeli concept is that the crossings are an external security affair. Dr. Sha'th said this is the wrong interpretation and if they stick to it, it would be difficult to reach an agreement. He affirmed that the security at the crossings is a Palestinian and Israeli concern, not only Israeli. He explained that the crossings to Gaza and Jericho should be treated differently and that Israeli supervision should be inconspicuous, because Israel will withdraw from these two areas rather than the remaining parts of the West Bank.

He noted that Israel still has objections on this issue. And it has not agreed to place the crossings under international supervision. Dr. Sha'th affirmed that Israel is anxious about the results of the Geneva summit between Presidents Clinton and al-Asad. He said Israel is afraid that the U.S.-Syrian agreement will put pressure on it, pressure that will again steer the negotiations toward a comprehensive solution, as UN Security Council Resolution 242 called for Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, not part of them. The head of the Palestinian delegation said that despite the problems and obstacles facing the Gaza-Jericho Committee, the talks have not reached a stage requiring intervention by the United States as a cosponsor of the peace process in the area. [passage omitted]

Al-Turayfi: Progress on Authority Transfer

NC1901162894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Taba, 19 Jan (MENA)—Jamil al-Turayfi, chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the Civilian Affairs Committee under the Gaza-Jericho Committee, has stated that tangible progress has been made in the work of the committee and that an agreement has been reached on transferring 25 functions from the Israeli to the Palestinian administration.

Speaking to reporters today, al-Turayfi said that an agreement on the transfer of four of these functions was reached at a meeting yesterday evening. These functions are: public works, natural preservations, arable land registration in Gaza, and civilian matters.

The Palestinian official added that no agreement has been reached so far on the transfer of 13 functions. They will be discussed during the next sessions.

Al-Turayfi noted that the Civilian Affairs Committee today began its discussion on the issue of transferring the water board authority from the Israeli to the Palestinian side. He believes that it will not be easy to reach an agreement on this matter in a single session.

Al-Turayfi affirmed that all the functions on which agreements were reached have been put in writing and signed by both sides.

Replying to a question on issuing Palestinian identification cards, he said that the committee has not completed its discussion of the issue and that it will be discussed during the next sessions. He noted that the committee will continue its works until Thursday evening.

In another development, 'Ami Gloska, official spokesman for the Israeli delegation, has stated that the two sides still disagree on certain points and that it is hard to tell when the talks will conclude.

Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff and chairman of the Israeli delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, said that there are essential differences between the two sides on the points the Security Committee is discussing, particularly the issue of the crossing points. He said that the talks will continue until tomorrow evening in an attempt to resolve these differences.

Committees Resume Meetings 20 Jan

NC2001102294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Taba, 20 Jan (MENA)—The Civilian Affairs and Security Committees, which are subcommittees of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, resumed meetings this morning in Taba.

The Palestinian side to the meetings of the Security Committee is chaired by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, deputy chairman of the delegation in the Gaza-Jericho Committee. The Israeli side is chaired by Uzi Dayan, deputy chairman of the Israeli delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, left Taba earlier today for Cairo to take part in President 'Arafat's talks with President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted] Dr. Nabil Sha'th said that the upcoming meeting of the Gaza-Jericho Committee will meet in Taba on Monday to discuss the area of the settlements in Gaza. He expressed hope that an agreement would be reached with the Israeli side on this matter.

On another aspect, during its meeting today the Civilian Affairs Committee will finalize discussions on transferring the water and electricity authority to the Palestinian side. The committee yesterday completed agreement on transferring 25 authorities from the Israeli side to the Palestinian side. There are still 13 authorities open for negotiations.

It is worth mentioning that the Civilian Affairs Committee is chaired on the Palestinian side by Lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi, and on the Israeli side by Gadi Zohar, in charge of civil administration in the West Bank.

Joint Document Drafted on Crossings

TA2001162794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] The Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Taba have drafted a joint document on the issue of the border crossings which specifies all the points of disagreement between the parties. Hasan 'Asfur, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation, said that the document will be relayed to the two leaderships for perusal. According to 'Asfur, over the weekend the PLO leadership will decide whether to change the directives given to the delegation and whether the negotiations will resume next week on the basis of this document.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 20 January carries a live report from Taba by Netan'el Semrik, adding that "the points of disagreement remain—as previously—the issues of symbols and procedures for checking those entering and departing the autonomy. The document itself is four-pages long and includes several dozens clauses and subclauses dealing with the various issues."]

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Civilian Affairs Committee postponed the scheduled discussion regarding the establishment of television and radio stations because the Palestinian expert did not arrive in Taba.

Details of Taba Paper Reported

TA2101101194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Jan 94 p 2

[Report by Mikha'el Rosolio and Arye Kiesel]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, at the conclusion of the second week of the latest round of Taba talks, the heads of the Israeli and PLO Security Committees managed to arrive at a mutually acceptable document. The four-page paper sums up the agreements—but primarily the disagreements—pertaining to the border crossings problem. [passage omitted]

The following are some of the points specified in the paper:

—The parties agree that anything that is decided with regard to the Allenby Bridge border crossing will also apply to the other border crossings.

—It is agreed that all the existing border crossings, including the crossings from Jordan and Egypt into Israel, as well as the crossings from the Green Line into the territories, will remain where they are to be used as border crossings in the future.

—The parties agree that the crossings will be manned by a policing force that will wear nonmilitary dress uniforms similar to those worn by the security inspectors at the Taba border crossing.

—Israel and the PLO—each one individually—want their own control at the border crossings and reject any attempt to entrust the crossings to a foreign element, such as the United Nations.

This is where the agreements end and the disagreements begin:

—The PLO wishes to separate the crossings into the territories from the crossings into Israeli territory and to assume full control over the crossings into the territories.

—The PLO wishes to decide on its own and without Israeli dictates who will be allowed into the territories and how visitors passports will be stamped.

—Alternatively, if a joint border crossing is operated, the PLO wants its security inspector to be the first to receive each person reaching the crossing point and to determine whether that person may pass through. The PLO representative will have no authority over Israelis but will be the decisive authority in the case of foreign tourists.

—Flags: The PLO wants its flag to be flown at each border crossing. In the case of a joint border crossing, it will be flown next to the Israeli flag.

PLO Delegate Cited on Security Issues

JN2101093094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1935 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Interview with Muhammad Dahlan, member of the Palestinian Security Committee to the PLO-Israel Taba negotiations, by radio correspondent Basim Abu-Sumayyah; from the "Today's Guest" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Sumayyah] What are the tasks of the Security Committee in the negotiations?

[Dahlan] The Security Committee is part of the negotiating Palestinian delegation, which is divided into Civilian Affairs and Security Committees. The Security Committee is responsible for many issues. There are many personal opinions on the concept of the Taba talks Security Committee. However, the Security Committee discusses several important topics in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. The first issue is the crossings, the second is the borders of the Jericho area, the third is the settlements and the areas in the Gaza Strip. There is also the security of roads and communication lines, the Palestinian security movements, and the security of the movements of the Israeli settlers on Palestinian roads and the mechanism of coordinating this matter between us and the Israeli police. These are the most important issues that were mentioned in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles [DOP].

[Abu-Sumayyah] It has been reported in the Israeli media that a coordination agreement has been reached between the Israeli and Palestinian security bodies. Can you tell us about that?

[Dahlan] First of all, it is the Israeli side which always raises the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian coordination or rather the Israeli-Palestinian security coordination. This is a serious issue. They are well aware that it creates confusion among the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territory. So far, there are no issues agreed on between us and the Israelis. Even in the DOP, there is no agreement or substantive progress in security matters that I have already mentioned.

Some Israeli papers have reported that progress has been made or a security coordination agreement reached between the Palestinian and Israeli security bodies. I would like to say that this is a sheer lie. There is no official or unofficial coordination between us and the Israeli security. We do not expect that in the near future there will be coordination on the concept of security coordination between us and the Israelis. However, there are measures that require coordination between us and the Israelis, matters related to the implementation of the DOP. For instance, the issue of the Palestinian police force, its tasks and duties, its measures, crossing into or out of Israeli areas, crossing into or out of the border crossing points. These are interconnected issues which have something to do with coordinating measures related to the police. They are also related to security measures but these are matters for the future. So far, the issue has not been discussed. This matter is discussed between us and the Israelis in the Taba negotiations and within the issue of crossings. How the Palestinians from the West Bank inhabitants can enter. This is one point. The second is how the inhabitants of Gaza and Jericho can enter.

The recent clamor was created by the Israeli side and the Israeli media. This is being done in a systematic, carefully planned manner because they are perfectly aware of the seriousness of portraying the issue of Palestinian-Israeli security coordination at this stage as a fact. This is part of the psychological war launched by the Israelis to benefit from confusing us as a Palestinian side to the negotiations. To the Palestinian mind, the issue of security coordination or cooperation is very difficult to digest. Moreover, the question of acceptance and coordination between us and the Israelis does not exist. We cannot forget that we spent many years in jail. Our people suffered many years of occupation. But the Israelis raised this issue in a carefully thought out manner. They disseminated these false statements. A statement was issued in my name in one of the Israelis papers in which I was quoted as saying that there was security coordination between the Israeli and Palestinian security bodies. This was denied and the denial was circulated among the Palestinian centers to clarify the picture and avoid entering into the Israeli labyrinth which will hinder our progress in the negotiations.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Speaking about the crossings issue, which is a basic security issue, what is the latest in this regard?

[Dahlan] Discussion of the crossings issue is revolving in circles and is subject to various opinions. We hope a breakthrough will be realized in the crossings issue. The Israeli side wants to supervise the crossings from the administrative and security viewpoints. We also want administrative and security supervision. We would like to reach a compromise on this issue because this portrays the image of the Palestinian authority. We want the Palestinian citizen to know that a change has been effected in his life, that a Palestinian policeman is meeting him, that a Palestinian policeman is taking care of his administrative papers. We do not want the Palestinian citizens to face humiliation and oppression as has been the case in the past. At least we want coordination in all administrative matters that the Palestinians need on the crossing points in addition to some aspects of security measures, entry and departure as well as other issues that require coordination between us and the Israeli side.

However, the Israeli side has so far been insisting on a comprehensive security and administrative supervision of the crossings. Our position is clear and instructions by the brother president ['Arafat] on this issue are very clear. I do not think that any Palestinian will accept less than we are presenting at the negotiations table.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Last question. It has been reported recently that Israel links the question of releasing Palestinian detainees with the question of an amnesty by the Palestinians concerning collaborators with the Israeli authorities. What do you say to that?

[Dahlan] This question is also connected with the security coordination which was reported in the Israeli papers. This issue prompted the Israeli side to disseminate a fabricated statement attributed to me on the coordination issue. At that time I dealt with the collaborators. We said that the families and children of collaborators are Palestinians and we will take care of them from the social and financial viewpoints and will treat them just like other Palestinians. However, the issue of collaborators has always been and will continue to be a very sensitive subject for us. We are still adhering to our stand that this issue provokes our people. We will revise the issue of the agents. Those who deserve to remain among the Palestinians will be welcomed and we will ask the Israeli side to solve the problems related to those who do not deserve that. Let them take them to their areas, in the same way the Netherlands treated such people.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Thank you very much.

Talks Conclude; 'Asfur, al-Tarifi Comment

JN2001194994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Report by Hasan Abu-Zayid from Taba, from the "With the Events" program]

[Text] A round of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations was concluded in Taba this evening. On the Security Committee, which discussed the issue of border crossings, the Israeli and Palestinian sides have reached an agreement on a joint working paper specifying the points of agreement and disagreement concerning border crossings. In other words, there is no progress on the Security Committee's talks, and the border crossings remained the obstacle hindering any progress on this committee's talks. 'Ami Glusqa, spokesman for the Israeli delegation said that the two sides have drafted a joint working paper covering the two sides' stands on all that is related to the border crossings, which hinder any progress on the talks of the Security Committee.

At the end of the session, Hasan 'Asfur, deputy head of the Palestinian team, said that the problem of border crossings will be discussed again during the next round of talks on Monday [24 January].

[Begin recording] ['Asfur] The meetings were businesslike. A joint document has been drafted. We will start new discussions on these topics on Monday. The discussions are difficult. We do not expect speedy solutions. We are working hard to bridge the points of disagreement.

[Abu-Zayid] Does this mean the question of crossings will be discussed again in Taba?

['Asfur] Next week, we will continue discussions on the question of crossings. This week's discussions on this issue were more businesslike than in the previous sessions.

[Abu-Zayid] What about other topics?

['Asfur] There are others on the agenda, but we should finish this issue since we have already started with it.

[Abu-Zayid] With respect to the crossings question, will it be raised during the 'Arafat-Peres meeting this week?

['Asfur] It is the right of the Palestinian people's leadership and the Israeli Government to discuss any issue.

[Abu-Zayid] But we have noticed that you have reached a dead end with respect to the question of border crossings?

['Asfur] Had we arrived at a dead end, we would not have agreed to meet again.

[Abu-Zayid] Yes, but this question has taken enough time?

['Asfur] It may take more time. We are not discussing time, but a solution. We know that these are difficult negotiations between two sides that have fought each other for a long time. Reaching a solution is not as easy as some believe.

[Abu-Zayid] How important is the paper that you drafted today for the essence of the negotiations on the crossings?

['Asfur] The paper has set a general perspective about all the issues that we should discuss. So, we will not have to exchange papers again or to present a detailed paper by each side. We have drafted a paper which specifies all the issues that we must discuss. [end recording]

The Civilian Affairs Committee, which is headed by Attorney Jamil al-Tarifi for the Palestinians and Brigadier General Gadi Zohar for the Israelis, discussed the electricity issue. Also, the committee raised the question of launching a Palestinian television and radio for the first time. We have learned that tangible progress was achieved during today's session of the Civilian Affairs Committee. Attorney Jamil al-Tarifi said:

[Begin recording] [Al-Tarifi] We have completed discussions on the registration of residents and documents. Up to this moment, Palestinian and Israeli experts are continuing discussions on the question of electricity.

[Abu-Zayid] Is there progress on the discussions of the Civilian Affairs Committee?

[Al-Tarifi] We expect so, God willing.

[Abu-Zayid] What about the question of the Palestinian radio and television?

[Al-Tarifi] Our experts have not arrived yet. We are expecting their arrival from Cairo. If they do not arrive today, we will hold this issue until next week, God willing.

[Abu-Zayid] Will the committee hold another session today?

[Al-Tarifi] God willing.

[Abu-Zayid] Is there progress on the Security Committee.

[Al-Tarifi] God willing.

[Abu-Zayid] Attorney Jamil al-Tarifi, is there a linkage between the talks of the Civilian Affairs and Security Committees.

[Al-Tarifi] In the final analysis, everything is linked to everything else. This is because there can be no comprehensive agreement by the Civilian Affairs Committee without an agreement on security issues. This is so there will only be one agreement.

[Abu-Zayid] Has a specified formula been reached on the issues that have been agreed upon?

[Al-Tarifi] Yes, a specified formula has been reached between us and the Israelis on the transfer of all the powers that have been agreed upon. [end recording]

Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, head of the Israeli team at the committee said that there is progress on this committee. He said:

[Begin recording] [Zohar] During this round of talks, we discussed a host of civilian issues, including electricity, which we are discussing today, passports, identification cards, etcetera. Contrary to our wishes, there is no speedy progress. There is still a lot to be done. This takes time.

[Abu-Zayid] When will you finish all issues pertaining to the Civilian Affairs Committee?

[Zohar] Who knows? When we reach an agreement, we know that we have finished our mission. [end recording]

Sha'th: Progress in Method, Not Substance

JN2001121994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1040 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, by Hasan Abu-Zayid in Taba on 20 January, from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Zayid] How do you evaluate today's round of talks?

[Sha'th] I think that progress was made today and yesterday. I cannot say it is progress in substance, but in method. Progress in method sometimes opens the door for progress in substance. We always began from the starting point. When we resume talks, we also begin from the starting point. Therefore, the talks were haunted by a ghost called the crossings problem. Today, I think we agreed on the exact points of agreement and disagreement in the problem of the crossings so that we will not again start from zero when talks begin, whether in Taba or on a higher level when the leaders or foreign ministers meet. This, in my opinion, is the basic progress made. This progress is represented in the two sides' readiness to agree to the points of agreement and disagreement so that we will not start afresh when we discuss the issue of the crossings once again. We might later say the problem is not one of crossings, but of the points that are still controversial. Progress also continued vis-a-vis the issue of civil administration. I think that except for the Paris negotiations, which will determine the method of transferring power in economic issues, only the water problem remains. I do not want to downplay the importance of the water problem; it is a difficult problem in the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is difficult for the Palestinians, especially in Gaza. It is the only remaining problem and needs to be solved. All the rest deals with the method. Hence, we can really say that by the end of tomorrow nothing will practically remain except the issue of water.

[Abu-Zayid] If no agreement is reached in Taba, will the issue of border crossings be discussed in Oslo or elsewhere?

[Sha'th] I do not know what will exactly be discussed in Oslo. What is certain is that these negotiations are continuing. If Oslo presents an opportunity to solve some problems, we will naturally seize that opportunity. Nevertheless, these negotiations are continuing. Next Monday, delegations of the Security and Civilian Affairs Committees will meet as usual.

[Abu-Zayid] What do you expect from the Peres-'Arafat Oslo meeting this week?

[Sha'th] The meeting is basically Arab, that is, the aim of going to Oslo is to pay tribute to late Norwegian Minister Holst. We—President 'Arafat and I—are going there to take part in his funeral. Minister Peres is also going there to offer his condolences. But there will be an opportunity to meet.

[Abu-Zayid] Will that opportunity be enough to benefit from this meeting and reach an agreement?

[Sha'th] That might be possible. If this happens, I will undoubtedly be happy. The Norwegian ambassador here told me: Holst's soul will rejoice if you reach a peace agreement even during his funeral because he lived and died for peace. Consequently, Holst's soul will not be distressed if you seize the opportunity of his funeral to get closer to peace.

[Abu-Zayid] Will 'Arafat today ask for an Egyptian intervention to bring the Israeli-Palestinian views closer?

[Sha'th] The Egyptian intervention in the negotiations is always desirable by us and apparently by the Israeli side. There has been no objection to this constructive role by Egypt. Therefore, President 'Arafat's meeting with President Husni Mubarak will certainly be an important meeting during which President 'Arafat will fully brief President Mubarak on developments and ask for an Egyptian backing of the peace process.

[Abu-Zayid] Will the Palestinian side take part in the Washington talks and who will lead the Palestinian delegation?

[Sha'th] I do not know if anyone has been selected to lead the Palestinian delegation to Washington or at least to attend the meeting the heads of delegations will hold in Washington shortly. However, I think it might be Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat because he was deputy chairman of the previous delegation led by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi.

Consequently, it is logical to have him there, but this depends on President 'Arafat's decision.

'Arafat Aide Warns Time Running Out

NC2001202894 Paris AFP in English 1756 GMT 20 Jan 94

[By Mona Salem]

[Excerpts] Taba, Egypt, Jan 20 (AFP)—Israel and the PLO agreed to disagree on Thursday [20 January] after another round of negotiations that failed to break the stalemate over who controls border crossings once Palestinian self-rule is launched. [passage omitted]

A senior aide to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, who was in Cairo on Thursday, warned the peace process could run out of steam if there was no breakthrough within weeks.

"I believe we have a few weeks in front of us and if these problems are not resolved in weeks I think the whole Declaration of Principles and the process will be in danger," Yasir 'Abdrabbuh told reporters in the capital.

"I don't think they have the luxury of time in order to wait for months. They need a quick solution as we do," he said, referring to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres who said Wednesday that his country could afford to wait.

The chief PLO negotiator, Nabil Sha'th, said the Taba meetings had produced "some opening." Although a security deal is proving elusive, he has reported progress on the hand-over of civilian powers to the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Egypt, Israel Try To Reduce Arms Control Tensions

TA2001140494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jan 94 p A4

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Egypt is trying to reduce the tension with Israel that has surfaced in the multilateral arms control talks. Nabil Fahmi, an aide to the Egyptian foreign minister and head of the Egyptian delegation to the arms control talks, yesterday visited Israel for a meeting with David 'Ivri, director general of the Defense Ministry and head of the Israeli delegation.

In this first-of-its-kind direct meeting between the Israeli and Egyptian representatives to the arms control talks, the sides were able to attain understandings that will prevent unnecessary bickering in the upcoming meeting in Cairo planned later this month between all the countries participating in the multilateral arms control talks.

The controversy between Egypt and Israel has centered on Egyptian diplomatic efforts to disarm Israel of its nuclear capacity and its demand to raise the nuclear issue in the multilateral talks as soon as possible. Israel, on the other hand, demands to start the process by implementing confidence-building-measures between the region's countries, and to delay the nuclear issue until stable peace arrangements are implemented in the area. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Syrian Minister Addresses Cairo Media Conference

JN2001094894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Excerpt] The meetings of the follow-up ministerial committee of the second conference for information ministers of Islamic states began in Cairo today. The information ministers of Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia, and delegations representing Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman, Palestine, Malaysia, Senegal, and the General Secretariat of the Islamic Conference Organization are taking part in these meetings.

Addressing the conference, Information Minister Muhammad Salman spoke about the importance of this meeting. He said: This meeting is aimed at following up the implementation of resolutions and recommendations reached during the previous conference. It is being held during critical circumstances in light of major international developments. This requires us to increase our coordination and integrate our joint efforts to implement these resolutions and recommendations. This should guarantee more strength and effectiveness for our joint efforts in the media field in order to reinforce the prestige and role of the peoples of our Islamic states in the world community and assist them to achieve progress, growth, and freedom under a new international order that is not established at the expense of our Islamic peoples but based on the principle of equality, parity, dialogue, and positive and constructive interaction among peoples. This new international order should guarantee for our peoples the achievement of freedom and sovereignty on their territories and the realization of a just and comprehensive peace that returns the occupied Arab territories in Palestine, southern Lebanon, and the Golan to their owners. This peace should also secure the rights of the Arabs and Muslims to holy Jerusalem, the Muslims' first qiblah [the direction a Muslim faces while praying], as emphasized in the Cairo media declaration issued in the second conference held by the information ministers of Islamic states.

The information minister also called for further coordination among Islamic states in all media fields in order to enhance the effectiveness of the media in Islamic states by taking advantage of new technological developments to accentuate the image of Islam and Muslims in a manner that confirms the importance of Islam and its great role in emphasizing respect for the human being and his right to justice, peace, progress, and freedom. Dr. Muhammad Salman added: Syria has participated in this march of our Islamic states toward joint media action from the time it was first launched at the conference in Jeddah, out of its firm belief in the great role that could be played within this joint Islamic framework in serving the issues of our countries and lifting injustice and deceit. Syria believes that the rapid international changes require us to focus on practical solutions and realistic visions in order to serve our joint causes. We believe that this meeting and the resulting recommendations will be an additional and blessed step which we hope will further strengthen this joint media action aimed at serving our people's interests.

Dr. Muhammad Salman arrived in Cairo this afternoon to take part in the meetings of the follow-up ministerial committee of the second conference for information ministers of Islamic states which is scheduled to last two days. He was received at Cairo International Airport by Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Syria's Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish, the two assistants of the Egyptian information minister, and a number of top Information Ministry officials.

Dr. Muhammad Salman responded to reporters' questions at the airport. He said he was happy to meet with Safwat al-Sharif, the information minister of sisterly Egypt, which is taking part in the meetings of the follow-up committee of the conference held by the information ministers of Islamic states. He said: During the committee's meetings, we will discuss the means to formulate recommendations that will help guide our future action in the media field.

Responding to a question on media cooperation between Syria and Egypt, the minister said: We are working together for the integration of the Syrian and Egyptian media in various arenas. He added: The Egyptian information minister and I are seeking to achieve a new qualitative move toward developing these relations in order to reaffirm political relations between the two countries and between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak.

On the results of the Geneva summit, the information minister said: The summit was clear. Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton openly responded to all questions. It remains for the Israeli side to respond to the results of the summit.

Dr. Salman spoke about the role of the Syrian media after the Geneva summit and said: The media do not represent an independent policy, but embody the Syrian policy trends on various levels. He added: We are seeking to develop and promote the media up to the level of the policy drawn and led by President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sees 'New Driving Force' for Peace

PM2001121094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Jan 94 p 6

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Khayrallah Khayrallah in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Khayrallah] What is your opinion of what took place in Geneva between President Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton?

['Arafat] Actually I followed what happened, and I express my strong satisfaction with what has been achieved and consider it complementary to what has been achieved on the Palestinian and Jordanian track. It is now the Lebanese track's turn after the Syrian track, God willing. Because we aspire to a comprehensive Arab solution that takes account of our Arab nation's interests to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

[Khayrallah] Your position sounds very positive with regard to what has happened. So how would you assess what President Clinton said in that meeting?

['Arafat] What he said emphasized the importance of what happened on the Palestinian-Israeli track and the Washington agreement between Israel and the PLO in order to reach the declaration of principles agreement we signed. What President Clinton said is a new driving force for the current peace process in the region.

[Khayrallah] What about what President al-Asad said and his focus on a comprehensive peace?

['Arafat] That is not the demand of Syria only. I mention President al-Asad because he stressed a comprehensive peace, which is the demand of the Arab nation as a whole. It is a Palestinian, Jordanian, Egyptian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Arab demand.

[Khayrallah] It is now four months since the Gaza-Jericho First agreement was signed in Washington. How would you assess the course that began after the White House ceremony?

['Arafat] Regrettably, the Israeli side continues to try to get around what was agreed upon. I hope that the conference's cosponsors, who signed the agreement with us, will hasten to intervene to force Israel to implement precisely and honestly what was agreed, including compliance with the dates stipulated in the agreement. Israeli maneuvers are continuing, in order to evade the dates and try to win as much support as possible for the Israeli view with regard to the implementation of the agreement. This is expected from the Israeli side and came as no surprise to us. We know how to run the negotiations with the Israelis. We know the nature of the negotiations; they are not easy. We always try to urge them to comply precisely and honestly with what was agreed. But regrettably, the Israeli maneuvers are still continuing.

In this context we are not begging from Israel, but, rather, demanding an implementation that serves peace and its march. Peace is in the interests of all: us, them, and the region as a whole. This is the comprehensive peace we are talking about as an Arab nation.

[Khayrallah] There is an Israeli view that President 'Arafat is not convinced that what the two sides have reached so far is an agreement on a transitional, not final, phase, and that you want to begin the final phase now.

['Arafat] Any Israeli official who says that seems not to have read the agreement. The agreement specified phases for that; it is a phased agreement. As for Gaza and Jericho, the Israeli withdrawal from there means that they will become a liberated territory in the legal and international sense. And if some Israeli officials know this fact, let them refer to international law and international stipulations to see what withdrawal means.

The withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho means that this territory becomes liberated the minute the (Israeli) withdrawal begins, just as happened when the French withdrew from Lebanon and Syria, the British from India and Egypt, and the French from Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco. But, as we agreed, the implementation will be in stages. For example, the withdrawal from the densely populated areas in the other parts of the West Bank will take place before the elections. This is because the elections should be conducted under international supervision and under the Palestinian National Authority's supervision. We will set up a national authority in Gaza and Jericho which will extend to all Palestinian territories.

[Khayrallah] That is in the context of the negotiations....

['Arafat] No, in the context of reality...only in the first stage this authority is not entitled to set up an army or to have embassies. But when the PLO signed—and (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin signed with the PLO, which has a bigger international recognition than Israel. [as published]

[Khayrallah] But if we want to determine what the disagreement is and take the crossings issue for example, what are the points of disagreement?

['Arafat] Are we going to live in Bantustans or ghettos? No. When we say "withdrawal," it means complete withdrawal. They are using security as an excuse. Assuming you do not trust the Palestinian policeman or officer standing at the crossing point, do you also not trust the international presence? We too do not trust the Israeli soldier. In Sinai they trust the international presence. The Likud party trusted the international presence there. So there is at least a precedent for him [Rabin] to rely on, namely the Likud's agreement to the international presence in Sinai. What different does it make for the international forces in Sinai to expand to the finger, or [Gaza] Strip—the strip resembles a toe on the map with regard to Sinai, which is why they call it the Gaza Strip.

[Khayrallah] So how do you believe that can be resolved?

['Arafat] We are following up the matter. We also urge the cosponsors of the conference and the international parties to participate in persuading the Israelis to understand this matter.

[Khayrallah] Are you satisfied with Israel's request that there be a ceiling of 7,000 Palestinian policemen?

['Arafat] There is no Israeli demand to that effect. On the contrary, they are aware of the importance of the police. In the developed states there is a policeman for every 200-250 citizens. As for Third World countries, there is one policeman for every 100-150 people. But this applies to states that have armies which they can use at any moment. We Palestinians are not allowed in the first stage to have an army. So we will rely mainly on the police. The number agreed in the security committee ranges between 20,000 and 25,000 policeman.

They say that they have no objection to the number we specified. Our talks with World Bank (officials) and the recent meeting in Oslo with the donor states and the World Bank showed that the first group in Gaza and Jericho only should be 12,000 to 15,000 policemen, and the other groups are to be sent when the withdrawal from the other Palestinian territories has been completed.

[Khayrallah] In view of that, do you expect progress to be achieved in the near future, based on compromises with regard to the crossings, for example?

['Arafat] We hope so. But not compromises, but, rather, solutions that give us our rights in full.

[Khayrallah] But at what stage?

['Arafat] The negotiations are continuing in Taba. Negotiations were held this month in Oslo, Paris, and Cairo, and now are being held in Taba.

[Khayrallah] Why were the economic negotiations in Paris suspended?

['Arafat] Because politics comes before economics. There must be an agreement on political matters in order for economic negotiations to progress.

[Khayrallah] The negotiations are continuing now. Are you satisfied with the Palestinian delegation's performance?

['Arafat] Yes. The Palestinian delegation is implementing its leadership's instructions. So we are satisfied.

[Khayrallah] Completely satisfied?

['Arafat] Of course. The delegation takes account of the Palestinian people's interests.

[Khayrallah] Do you believe that better elements could be used in the negotiations?

['Arafat] If necessary, we will send [other] elements. And, praise God, we have sufficient competent and capable cadres.

[Khayrallah] How do you explain Palestinian differences?

['Arafat] What differences?

[Khayrallah] Among Palestinian leaderships....

['Arafat] There are no differences. But Palestinian democracy is strong, which means.... Differences exist in Israel. And in the United States there are differences over NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] (the economic agreement among the United States, Canada, and Mexico). And in Europe there are those who are for GATT and those who are against. It is one of the characteristics of any democratic arena. We are proud of Palestinian democracy, even if it does not appeal to some people. We are exercising it to serve the Palestinian people.

[Khayrallah] How do you explain the press campaigns against you these days?

['Arafat] They are incited. They reflect—whether in the Arab or foreign press—their surprise at the resoluteness of the Palestinian position. But there is a Palestinian proverb which says, "the wind cannot shake a mountain."

[Khayrallah] Let us move to the Jordan issue. What is the status of relations with Jordan at present?

['Arafat] Relations are "fine," and we have signed a very good economic agreement with the Jordanian brothers, and the joint committee has begun its work. We are proud of Palestinian-Jordanian relations.

[Khayrallah] But what was the reason for the delay in signing the agreement?

['Arafat] We had to wait for what was going to happen between us and the Israelis.

[Khayrallah] So relations with Israel are not given precedence over relations with Jordan?

['Arafat] That is impossible. And an agreement will be signed between us and the brothers in Egypt; you were the first to read the "draft agreement on economic and technological cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the PLO." It will, God willing, be signed this month, because we are seeking protection through Arab economic relations against Israeli infiltration among the Palestinian people, who have been under the occupation for many years.

[Khayrallah] So you do not in any way give precedence to relations with Israel over relations with any Arab party?

['Arafat] It is not possible, because our Arab relations are fundamental.

[Khayrallah] But how do you explain your request to set up a Palestinian central bank or to have a Palestinian currency?

['Arafat] We are entitled to demand everything the next Palestinian entity should have. We are on our way to a state which is supposed to unite confederally with Jordan, in accordance with the resolution adopted by our National Council and the two fraternal peoples' free choice. If our brothers in Jordan agree, we will establish the confederation with them immediately. The state to be established, God willing, should have all these capabilities.

[Khayrallah] When do you expect to reach Gaza or Jericho?

['Arafat] We hope that Israeli intransigence will end. The Israelis should understand that, if the central issue in the Middle East and the Arab nation, that is the Palestinian issue, is not resolved, there will be no stability, security, or peace, but rather, total chaos. So they should take account of the importance of resolving this issue.

[Khayrallah] But how? What is your advice to them?

['Arafat] The agreement signed was not between us and Israel only. The world took part in it and it was signed by the U.S. and Russian cosponsors of the conference, under the U.S. President's auspices and before the eyes of the entire world, which blesses it.

[Khayrallah] What are you actually requesting Israel to do?

['Arafat] To implement honestly and precisely what has been agreed.

[Khayrallah] Do you believe that Israel has not read the agreement well?

['Arafat] No, it has read it well, but it is trying to maneuver and evade the substance of the agreement.

[Khayrallah] What would you say about relations with Rabin? How do you find the man?

['Arafat] I say that military men honor their word, and I hope this will apply to the implementation of the agreement.

[Khayrallah] What was the status of the talks with him, given it is the first time you have met with an Israeli prime minister?

['Arafat] They were not easy. The first meeting was difficult. But after that we moved to lay new foundations to implement the agreement, and when he requested the postponement of the withdrawal, I agreed.

[Khayrallah] What attracted you in his personality?

['Arafat] He honors his word.

[Khayrallah] What about Shim'on Peres?

['Arafat] He is an experienced politician.

[Khayrallah] What is the difference between him and Rabin?

['Arafat] I do not interfere in the Israeli Government's private affairs.

[Khayrallah] Yasir 'Arafat is accused of wanting to control everything, as though the stage can accommodate one person only. What is your opinion?

['Arafat] You know, building a homeland requires a man who works day and night. It is now 0115 hrs, and the work has just started. By God, if a child is wounded in the intifadah, I am responsible for him, and.... I would like to remind you of the committees we have set up to tackle the new situation with regard to building the Palestinian national authority. These committees have been formed at all levels. For example, the economic committee follows up matters with the donors and the World Bank. We have also started to set up establishments like the human rights committee as well as the environment, census, health, education, and housing establishments.

[Khayrallah] How do you view Arab relations in general?

['Arafat] By God, they need further efforts from Arab leaders to restore Arab cohesion, because we are facing a new order and it will be to our cost if we do not confront it united. I call for further Arab unity in the interests of our children and posterity.

[Khayrallah] Can you make an initiative in this connection?

['Arafat] I support the Arab League secretary general's initiative.

[Khayrallah] What about Palestinian national unity and [Palestinian] opposition organizations?

['Arafat] I tell them one thing. Now that an understanding has been reached between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton and signs of a solution have begun to emerge on the Syrian front, I tell these organizations: My hand is extended to you in order to build the Palestinian National Authority and a free homeland for all the free people of Palestine—a democratic, civilized, contemporary homeland based on the principles, values, ethics, and religious radiation derived from Palestine's traditions and civilization and the religious tolerance for which this land—the land of Palestine, the land of peace, the land of sanctity—is known. I extend my hand to you all in order to reinforce our national unity, because Palestine is being reborn, and Palestine needs all its women and children.

[Khayrallah] How many hours do you work a day?

['Arafat] Between 17 and 18 hours, as usual.

[Khayrallah] Are there any more visits coming up?

['Arafat] A visit to Egypt and a meeting with President Mubarak on Thursday, and a meeting with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Brown. Then I will go to Oslo to take part in the funeral of Norwegian Foreign Minister Holst, an old friend of mine since he was defense minister. He used to visit southern Lebanon to inspect his country's unit there.

'Arafat Meets U.S. Commerce Secretary in Cairo

NC2001150194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today met with U.S. Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown.

Palestinian sources said that the two sides discussed arrangements for revitalizing the economic and social conditions in Gaza and Jericho after power is transferred to the Palestinian people.

The meeting was attended by members of the Palestinian and U.S. delegations currently visiting Cairo.

'Arafat Returns to Tunisia After Mubarak Meeting

LD2101092794 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat returned to Tunisia last night after a brief visit to Egypt. During his visit he met President Husni Mubarak and the U.S. commerce secretary to discuss the outcome of the Palestinian-Israeli talks on arrangements for self-rule and the U.S. contribution toward consolidating self-rule in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, President 'Arafat's political adviser and head of the Palestinian team negotiating with Israel, said that 'Arafat will most probably return to Cairo on Sunday [23 January] after meeting Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Shim'on Peres tomorrow. Both men will be in Oslo to attend the funeral of the Norwegian foreign affairs minister.

PLO To Participate in Washington Peace Talks

NC2001194194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Tunis, 20 Jan (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Samir Ghawshah has announced that the committee has decided to take part in the next round of the bilateral peace talks, due to begin in Washington on Monday [24 January].

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Tunis, he said the Palestinian leadership is holding contacts with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi to lead the Palestinian delegation to these talks. If he refuses, Ghawshah added, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the deputy head of the delegation, will lead the delegation in the next round.

Ghawshah emphasized the importance of coordination and cooperation among all Arab parties taking part in the peace talks, as was the case before the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the PLO and Israel on 13 September.

He said the positive results of the summit held between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will have a positive effect on all tracks and will advance the peace process. He added that the summit results will also have a positive effect on the Palestinians.

'Abbas on Geneva Summit, Ties With Syria, Jordan

JN1901133294 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jan 94 p 16

[Telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas in Tunis by Riyad Mansur—date not given]

[Text] [Mansur] How did the PLO view the Geneva summit between the U.S. and Syrian presidents?

['Abbas] We began the Arab-Israeli negotiations in Madrid together. We also moved together in Washington and in the multilateral talks. Tracks like the Palestinian or Jordanian tracks made more progress than other tracks. Now it is Syria's turn. We believe that achieving positive results in negotiations on the Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian tracks will lead to a comprehensive solution. Therefore, we consider it [the Geneva summit] a positive and good step toward solving the issue of the occupied Syrian territories.

[Mansur] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' had earlier called for excluding the PLO from Arab coordination. Do you think the Clinton-al-Asad summit has invalidated this call?

['Abbas] I do not want to comment on that, but four- or five-track coordination is necessary. Coordinated Arab positions and unity are essential. Consequently, I have no comment on Minister al-Shar's statement. What really concerns me is that the track has succeeded and this is something good for us.

[Mansur] How does the PLO view the Palestinian-Syrian relationship following the success of negotiations on the Syrian track?

['Abbas] I think it must be good because both of us are moving in the same didection. The Palestinians might have been accused of moving faster or acting unilaterally, but now that progress has been made, I do not think talk about who advanced or lagged behind is valid any more. Now we all are supposed to think about the future and to have good relations with our brothers in Syria.

[Mansur] What can the Palestinian leadership tell the Syrian leadership now that progress has been made on the Syrian track?

['Abbas] The PLO tells the Syrian leadership that what it did was good and we hope this process will continue and lead to full agreement based on complete withdrawal from the Golan and on full withdrawal for full peace. We hope the Syrian brothers will pursue this course until peace is attained.

[Mansur] Do you think differences between Syria and the PLO are over and bridges in Syrian-PLO relations can be reestablished?

['Abbas] Bridges between us and Syria have not been broken; they might have been clouded, but not broken.

[Mansur] An economic agreement similar to the one signed with Jordan is expected to be signed with Egypt. Does this agreement conflict with the one signed with Jordan?

['Abbas] Absolutely not. We do not accept any contradiction. It will complement the agreement with Jordan. We studied the Egyptian agreement very carefully so that there will be no contradiction or privileges for one at the expense of the other.

[Mansur] How far have you gone in studying this agreement?

['Abbas] The Palestinian-Egyptian economic agreement is ready for signing.

[Mansur] The Palestinian-Israeli economic committee meetings in Paris have been postponed until further notice. Why?

['Abbas] They have been postponed for a short period of time pending the results of the Taba talks. We will resume the Paris talks once the results of the Taba talks are known.

[Mansur] The U.S. secretary of commerce called on the Arab states to lift the Arab boycott of Israel. How do you view this call?

['Abbas] We said more than once that the Arab boycott is linked to the Arab position. This is an Arab as well as a Palestinian position. Hence, any progress in this regard should be made within an Arab context.

[Mansur] Are your differences with President 'Arafat over? Have you settled your differences with him or not?

['Abbas] There are no real differences between us; we are together in one leadership, one institution, one movement, and one organization. However, we, within the framework of this institution, may have differences in opinion. We discuss these opinions and may agree or disagree. This disagreement will not reach the stage of a split. Differences in opinion within the organization do exist.

[Mansur] It was reported that there are differences between the PLO and Jordan on Jerusalem. What is the truth behind these differences if indeed they exist?

['Abbas] There are no differences whatsoever on Jerusalem. Jerusalem is a Palestinian Arab land. We, Jordan, and both the Arab and Islamic world demand its return. There are absolutely no differences with the brothers in Jordan over the issue of Jerusalem.

Fatah Aide on U.S.-Syria Summit, PLO Posture

PM2001145594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jan 94 p 3

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report from Tunis, accompanied by other unattributed reports]

[Excerpts] Tunis, Cairo, Tehran (AL-SHARQ-AL-AWSAT and agencies)—Fatah Central Committee Member Muhammad Ghunaym (Abu-Mahir) has denied that the Palestinians viewed with concern and anxiety the results of the summit meeting held between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva last Sunday [16 January]. He stressed that the PLO welcomed the results of that summit.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa called the summit "successful." [passage omitted]

In a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Abu-Mahir said that all the rumors about Palestinian fear of that summit were personal views which did not reflect the PLO position. Contrary to what is being said, Abu-Mahir added, the PLO welcomes the al-Asad-Clinton summit results because they point to progress in the negotiations in general. President al-Asad's statement insisting on a comprehensive solution and on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242, 338, and 425 indicates that Syria wants a comprehensive and just solution in the region, he said.

Abu-Mahir emphasized that progress on the Syrian track would serve all other tracks including the Palestinian track. [passage omitted]

Since the signing of the [Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles] agreement, Syrian-Palestinian relations have been very cool, reaching a freezing point because Damascus did not approve of the agreement.

Despite statements by some Palestinian officials that the Palestinians welcome the summit results, the truth is quite different. The Palestinian leadership, combining PLO Executive Committee members and Fatah Central Committee members, has been in continuous session since last Saturday, that is, one day before the al-Asad-Clinton summit, but so far no official statement or explanation has been issued. [passage omitted]

According to highly placed Palestinian sources, the reason for the delay in announcing the Palestinian position on that summit is the ambiguity surrounding it, insofar as it was not perfectly clear if al-Asad sought to reactivate the negotiations to serve only Syria's interests or to serve all the tracks, particularly the Palestinian track, in harmony with Syria's pan-Arab line.

The sources added that the PLO fears that, after the summit, Syria might revive its attempts to contain the Palestinian element and the independent Palestinian decisionmaking which the PLO has over many years paid a high price to maintain. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi: Pressure Israel Over Settlements

LD2001153294 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1400 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] [Announcer] A former peace negotiator of the Palestine Liberation Organization calls for international pressure so that Israel will dismantle its settlements in the occupied territories. In the view of Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, who is visiting Finland, Israel is not displaying a true spirit of negotiation when it—at the same time—increases its settlements, continues military operations in Lebanon, and does not free political prisoners. The PLO and Israel are currently negotiating in Taba, Egypt about border control in the self-rule areas, the withdrawal of Israeli troops, and the borders of Jericho. These issues are important in themselves, but the PLO leadership knows that peace cannot be achieved if the settlement issue is not solved, 'Abd-al-Shafi says.

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording, in English] Now these are important, we concede they are important issues, and I certainly do not condone the position of Israel with respect to this. But all the same, we look at these issues as being irrelevant in the face of the ongoing settlement process and I think Chairman 'Arafat is aware of it. [end recording]

[Announcer] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi resigned from the PLO's negotiation delegation in the summer after the secret negotiations in Oslo between Yasir 'Arafat and Israel became public. 'Abd-al-Shafi is paying an unofficial visit to Finland.

PFLP-GC Spokesman Vows 'Armed Struggle'

JN1901181294 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] At 1415 today, Zionist warplanes raided bases that belong to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] in the Bi'wirta region. The bases have been used for over a year as centers for social and medical services.

A spokesman for the PFLP-GC has made the following statement: At exactly 1415 today, a formation of Zionist warplanes raided al-Na'imah region targeting a dispensary that belongs to the PFLP-GC and firing several missiles. Two workers in the dispensary sustained various injuries. Also, the dispensary building, in addition to several cars and surrounding buildings, sustained material damage. One of the two workers was died from his injury.

Until the early hours of the evening, the Zionist enemy planes conducted reconnaissance missions over the region. Boat lights were also spotted off the al-Damur and al-Na'imah coasts.

The spokesman added that the PFLP-GC, which was targeted by Zionist shelling for the second time in two weeks, declares that these strikes will only increase its resolve and strengthen its refusal to make peace with or recognize the Zionist enemy. It will continue to support the popular intifadah in Palestine until the defeat of the treasonous Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The PFLP-GC reasserts that it will continue to adhere to armed struggle and jihad, in addition to national and Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon and Palestine, until the liberation of Palestine and all of the occupied Arab territories.

It is a revolution until the liberation of man and land.

Jibril: Al-Asad Foiled U.S. Bid To Impose Autonomy Deal

JN2001213394 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] [Paris] Radio Monte Carlo has reported that Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has accused the U.S. Administration of deception, disinformation, and hypocrisy in its attempts to cause dissension among the allies opposing the Palestinian limited self-rule agreement. Jibril, who was speaking to AFP, continued: The objective that Washington sought to achieve through the Geneva summit was to neutralize the Syrian position so it could impose the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. However, the strength and firmness of the President al-Asad's position has foiled this objective. President al-Asad stood in defense of the Arab nation's causes and refuted all allegations. In Geneva, President al-Asad was as we have always known him—an Arab knight faithful to the Arab nation's rights.

Jibril, Habash on Geneva Summit, Syrian Position

JN2001131494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command has said that at the [U.S.-Syrian] Geneva summit, the United States tried to neutralize the Syrian stand in order to impose the Gaza-Jericho agreement and strike at the alliance opposed to the short-term agreement between the PLO and Israel.

Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], believes that the Geneva summit results will not have a negative effect on the existing alliance between Syria and the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] which is opposed to the Israeli Palestinian agreement.

Habash's stand was revealed in an answer to a question by Salim Badawi related to the possible effect of the Syrian-U.S. summit on the opposition methods adopted by the PFLP:

[Begin Habash recording] I do not think so. This is because our struggle in the PFLP, and this also applies to Hamas, is based on struggle inside the occupied territories. Concerning this issue, Syria is still strongly supporting the intifadah. Therefore, I do not believe that we are facing a great diversion between the APF and Syria. Moreover, we must consider that despite the Geneva summit, Syria continues to demand the implementation of all UN resolutions, not only with respect to the Golan but also with respect to Lebanon, and the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. This means that this issue will be a long drawn out one, especially since we must take into consideration the intransigent Israeli attitude.

What was Israel's attitude throughout the summit and in its aftermath? Israel's answer was to hold a referendum. I see this as a kind of escape from the process on the Israeli track. [end recording]

Hamas' Ghawshah Discusses U.S.-Syrian Summit

JN2001122994 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Jan 94 p 24

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpts] Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has stated that the first meeting of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF], which was formed in the Syrian capital on 5 January, will meet in Damascus today. In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Ghawshah said that the alliance's 20-member leadership (two members from each faction) will discuss the results of the Syrian-U.S. summit and its implications for the Palestinian people's cause at this important and serious stage. [passage omitted]

Answering a question, Ghawshah described the Syrian-U.S. summit in Geneva as "an important political meeting but we do not expect quick or direct results from it. The first result could be an improvement in Syrian-U.S. relations." [quotation marks as published] Any developments in the Middle East problem, will be premature for the following reasons among others:

1. The Syrian track is a major track with many obstacles. The U.S. Administration, represented by Clinton, does not hold sway over the Zionist entity. There are two major power centers for this entity: one inside the Zionist entity itself and the other in the United States, represented by the Zionist lobby.

2. The ball of fire has moved quickly to the Zionist side. The Zionist Knesset is in permanent session and the settlers and rightists, especially the Likud and religious parties, have made quick moves against withdrawal from the Golan, forcing Rabin to announce through his deputy Mordekhay Gur that he is prepared to hold a referendum on full withdrawal from the Golan. This in itself will create other contradictions. Some are demanding fresh Jewish elections. All this indicates that any hopes that caused some to be optimistic will collapse. [passage omitted]

Algeria

House Arrest Measures Lifted; Detainees Released

LD1901165794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] [Announcer] I have just heard that the Ministry of Interior and Local Communities has announced the immediate lifting of the measures concerning house arrest at the national level, and the release of people detained at the two security centers in Oued Namous and in Amguel.

The decision comes within the framework of the openness [infiraj] measures to facilitate the success of the national dialogue, the Ministry of Interior and Local Communities' statement said.

Opposition Leader Welcomes Release

LD2001094594 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Excerpts] The gates of Saharan security centers in Algeria have been opened; some of the 780 Islamist prisoners in these security centers have been released. [passage omitted]

A reaction from Rabah Kebir, one of the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front in exile: He says these measures are insufficient:

[Begin Kebir recording] I am very pleased about the release of some of our brothers who were imprisoned wrongly and without trial in concentration camps and who have been there for two years now. This is not enough, however, because thousands of our brothers are still in prison, such as our leaders, first of all.

As for the national dialogue conference, as far as we are concerned, the junta in power is not to be taken seriously. That is why this conference has no chance of success. It is only a propaganda ploy to gain time. Should they ever want a negotiable solution, all they have to do is to look at the one condition we set during our news conference on 17 August 1993. It is no use giving us little presents to cheer us up. We are not children. [end recording]

Dembri on Reforms, Mediterranean Issues

PM2001092694 Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS in Portuguese 15 Jan 94 p 17

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri by Abel Coelho de Morais; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Coelho] A conference for national dialogue which is to determine Algeria's future is currently being prepared. Are you afraid that this initiative will lead to a dead end, in view of the intention not to attend that has already been expressed by various political forces?

[Dembri] Two important processes of reforms are unfolding in Algeria, one linked to the political transition and the other concerning the economic reforms. In the first case, we are trying without exceptions to secure an agreement on the transitional period, which should not exceed three years. The conference will take place 25-26 January, and the platform and the institutions will be determined at it.

When this aim has been achieved, the country will be administered until the holding of presidential and legislative elections wihhin a maximum period of three years, which could, however, be brought forward.

With respect to the economic reform, this is aimed at achieving a market economy. The legal instruments for running the transition and undertaking the reforms of the central bank's regulations have already been created. Last, we are negotiating with the IMF our foreign debt and the structural adjustments in our economy, a process which should be completed by the end of the month.

[Coelho] But this strategy does not in itself exhaust the fundamentalists' demands...

[Dembri] We know that the security issue worries other countries, but I can say that the terrorist actions which have occurred in Algeria do not necessarily originate inside the country. They are connected with the international situation, and they stem from the deterioration of the economic situation in the Third World.

[Coelho] Are you not concerned about the absence of important political parties from the dialogue proposed by the government?

[Dembri] There have been organizations which decided to take part and which later backtracked, but we must not despair. Algeria needs everybody. Only two conditions are set: Renouncing violence and respect for the constituent elements of the national identity.

[Coelho] "Without exception" includes organizations or figures linked to the fundamentalists...

[Dembri] The fundamentalists were not considered in particular. Everybody is accepted, provided that they accept the criteria which I mentioned.

[Coelho] Is the release of fundamentalist militants over the past few days a signal to the Islamic Salvation Front?

[Dembri] The invitations to the conference were made on the basis of openness. In this context, the measures adopted by the authorities reflect their idea of the normal running of the state and society...

[Coelho] Following the conference and with the winding up of the High State Committee, what kind of solution will be adopted during the transitional period which you propose?

[Dembri] There will be a presidential council, a government, and a transitional council comprising 180 people, which will function as a parliament, overseeing the government's activity.

[Coelho] And who will form the government?

[Dembri] According to the constitutional rules, the head of government, but, in view of the nature of the transitional period, it is clear that the choices will be made on the basis of openness.

[Coelho] You mentioned agreements which are about to be signed with the IMF. What are Algeria's economic priorities? To accelerate the reforms?

[Dembri] First, the debt must be treated in a way which will enable us to achieve a market economy without major social tensions. We hope that the IMF will not apply too strong a remedy for our economic system. We have an industrial system which we must set on its feet again, agriculture also needs major investments, and it is necessary to create jobs and boost public works. We hope that the negotiation with the IMF and the World Bank will not impose on us excessively tough structural adjustment measures: "constraints," as they are called in the IMF's language.

[Coelho] Within the framework of Algeria's strategy of a stronger link and cooperation with Europe, how would you define your country's relations with the European Union [EU] right now?

[Dembri] The EU holds the first place in our foreign trade. We wish to strengthen that cooperation through an agreement whose long-term aim will be the creation of a free trade area covering the Twelve and Algeria. Two lines of cooperation have already been defined by the EU—one in the direction of the former USSR, the other aimed at the southern flank, the Mediterranean, and the Maghreb countries.

[Coelho] The dialogue between Europe and the Maghreb within the framework of the Five Plus Five group is deadlocked. Is it feasible to surmount the deadlock, or must alternative ways be sought in order not to lose this stage of cooperation between the two sides of the Mediterranean?

[Dembri] The dialogue within the framework of the Five Plus Five group is deadlocked owing to one problem—the Lockerbie case. There is explicit opposition on the part of certain European countries to any Five Plus Five group meeting attended by the Maghreb country targeted over this affair (Libya). On the other hand, the nature of the Mediterranean area's problems requires constant consultation. So what is to be done? Either we move toward bilateral consultation processes or we must find a formula which will enable us to continue to meet. It is at this point that we find ourselves.

[Coelho] Algeria is following the Israeli-Arab dialogue as an interested party. What do you expect of the agreement between Tel Aviv and the PLO? What kind of relationship is beginning between Israel and the Arabs?

[Dembri] The agreement on Jericho and Gaza must develop favorably as a first step toward an overall solution to the Middle East problem. There must also be appropriate treatment of everything concerning the Palestinian problem, the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian entity, and the resolution of other regional problems, including Syria's relations with Israel and Lebanon's relations with Israel.

But this is not the only international problem that worries us. There is another....

[Coelho] Which?

[Dembri] Bosnia, which is suffering terribly. Hence we want Europe and the international community to pledge to end this tragedy, the aggression against Bosnia's Muslims to cease, and the Bosnian unitary state to be safeguarded within the borders recognized by the international community....

[Coelho] How?

[Dembri] It must not be forgotten that Bosnia became a UN member following a referendum held in the country at the international community's request. There are decisions by the international community which must be respected, but we should not forget that the embargo on Bosnia now mainly harms the Bosnians—not their Serbian aggressors.

Dembri Said To Have Seen Plan To Remove Nezzar

PM1901100294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Text] Algiers—A high-level Algerian source has revealed to AL-HAYAH that during his recent European tour Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri read details of a report aimed at removing Major General Khaled Nezzar. The source stated that "a general known for his hard-line position toward Islamists and his hostility to the Arab, Islamic line is in charge of the plan." The source stated that this general "has great influence inside the military and enjoys Maj. Gen. Nezzar's confidence."

The source added: "According to the report, the general in question (he declined to reveal his name) assigned a group of retired colonels in the military security organ to conduct a secret investigation to identify the quarters behind the bombing operations not attributed to Islamic groups. The results of the investigation revealed Maj. Gen. Nezzar's responsibility for them, including the attempt on his life and the attempt on the life of Gen. Toufik, chief of the military security organ."

The source stated that a European official "put Dembri in the picture with regard to the report, telling him that the general himself convinced his colleagues and a number of colonels that Nezzar is responsible for what has happened to the country and for the losses inflicted on the military and that his insistence on the method of holding a dialogue with the fundamentalists will eventually lead to handing over power to the Islamic Salvation Front." The source added that the European official stressed to Dembri "the existence of a petition signed by senior officers, urging Nezzar's removal in preparation for a coup to be led by the military's hard-line general." The report indicates that Nezzar's adversaries accuse him of monopolization and have detected "several secret contacts" he made with Salvation Front leaders via various channels, "including assigning Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, former secretary general of the National Liberation Front, to make contacts with the Islamists. He was seen frequenting a villa in the Draria area, west of the capital." The report stresses that Messaadia "was the target of an assassination or abduction attempt but the security services foiled it."

Eight 'Terrorists' Killed in Algiers

LD1901214594 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] According to a communique of the security services, reported by APS, eight terrorists were killed in the capital and Ain Defla and three others were arrested in the capital and in Constantine.

Egypt

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo To Discuss Peace Process

NC2001074394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0727 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this morning on a visit to Egypt. During his visit, he will meet President Husni Mubarak to discuss the latest developments in the peace process and the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. 'Arafat's visit comes within the framework of efforts to overcome the obstacles impeding the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and the Gaza-Jericho Agreement.

Mubarak, 'Arafat Hold Private Talks

NC2001080094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0738 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidential Palace. 'Arafat arrived in Cairo earlier today. The two leaders held a session of talks in camera.

Mubarak, 'Arafat Hold Expanded Meeting

NC2001090894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak resumed his talks with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat during an expanded round at the Presidential Palace attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

The talks were attended on the Palestinian side by Yasir 'Abd- Rabbuh, head of the PLO's Information Department; Akram Haniyah, 'Arafat's adviser on occupied territories affairs; Nabil Sha'th, president 'Arafat's political adviser; Sa'id Kamal, Palestine's ambassador in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah's representative in Cairo.

Musa on Mubarak-'Arafat Talks

NC2001122594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said he believes there is a good chance of reaching a Palestinian- Israeli agreement on implementing the Declaration of Principles between the two sides.

In statements he made after President Husni Mubarak's talks with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat today, the foreign minister said they had a long discussion to try to make progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track of the talks.

He said president 'Arafat presented the Palestinian viewpoint and the progress made in the talks with the Israeli side so far.

Musa said that 'Arafat is expected to meet Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Oslo on Saturday to hold further talks on the course of negotiations between the Palestinian and the Israeli sides.

He added that 'Arafat is expected to return to Cairo next week for consultations after his talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Peres.

He affirmed that Egypt will continue to follow up the negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

'Arafat Leaves Cairo

NC2001183794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this evening after a visit of several hours to Egypt, during which he held talks with President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments in the peace talks.

During the talks, 'Arafat explained the Palestinian view and the outcome of the negotiations with the Israeli side so far.

Mubarak, al-Asad To Meet in 'Next Few Days'

NC2001140094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has stated that Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad will meet in the next few days. In a statement following his meeting with President Mubarak today, Salman said consultations are continuing between the two countries on various issues. He said he conveyed greetings from President al-Asad to President Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Receives U.S. Commerce Secretary Brown

NC2001092094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown at the Presidential Palace this morning. Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the U.S. charge d'affaires also attended the meeting.

Mubarak Receives U.S. Senator McConnell

NC2001121194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received visiting U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell at the Presidential Palace today.

Afterward, the senator said they held constructive talks. Everybody in the United States admires President Mubarak as a great leader in the Arab world, he said. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Requests 'Urgent' Summit With Mubarak

NC2001161694 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Libyan President [title as published] Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi has asked for an urgent summit meeting with President Husni Mubarak to end the current coolness in Egyptian-Libyan relations which followed the disappearance in Cairo of the Libyan opposition figure Mansur al-Kikhya.

Al-Qadhdhafi has sent a personal message to President Mubarak, informing him of Libya's commitment not to touch Libyan opposition figures who reside in or have been granted asylum in Egypt.

Libya has informed Cairo that it was not involved in al-Kikhya's disappearance on 10 December 1993 either directly or indirectly. Libyan Embassy sources noted that the investigations carried out by Egyptian security agencies have not pointed a finger at anyone.

Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi submitted a report to President Mubarak about the circumstances surrounding al-Kikhya's disappearance.

Detectives Arrest 244 'Extremists' in Cairo Areas

NC1901200194 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] In coordination with the State Security Detective Agency and the Public Security Department, Cairo detectives have arrested 244 extremists in the al-Khankah and Cairo districts.

Acting on instructions from Major General Ahmad al-'Adili, director of the State Security Detectives Agency; Maj. Gen. Nassar Zahir, director of the Public Security Department; and Maj. Gen. Mansur al-'Isawi, director of the Cairo Security Department to purge and strike terrorist and extremist hideouts in the slum areas, an intense security campaign was launched in eastern Cairo areas and in 'Izbat al-Nakhl, al-Marj, and al-Khankah districts. Some 244 fugitive terrorists were arrested as a result.

Security Source on Sweeps in Southern Cairo

NC1901155994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—An official source at the Ministry of Interior has stated that the sweeps carried out by the security forces in southern Cairo early this morning resulted in the wounding of terrorist Muhammad Ahmad Farhan, a fugitive sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labor in the Zinhum incident and sentenced to 15 years in another case for possessing explosives.

The source added that the wounded terrorist was involved in the attack against the Majdah movie theater in Hulwan, as well as the recent attack against a tourist bus in Misr al-Qadimah.

The terrorist was caught in possession of an automatic rifle, a large amount of ammunition, and $5,000.

Another terrorist was apprehended in the sweeps. Samir Isma'il Salih, a Palestinian national studying at the al-Azhar Institute in Hiliyat al-Zaytun, is one of the very dangerous elements trained in using weapons. He took part in the attack against a tourist bus in Misr al-Qadimah. [passage omitted]

Sayyid 'Abd-al-Fattah of the Special Forces was martyred in the incident while NCO Khalid 'Adli Musa of the Cairo Investigation Bureau was wounded. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Seize Arms, Suspects in Sinai

NC2101101294 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 17 Jan 94 p 9

[Report by Hamid al-Alfi from al-'Arish]

[Text] As part of their campaign to seize weapons and explosives and arrest terrorists, the north Sinai intelligence agencies have seized 20 weapons—including a mortar gun, an antiaircraft gun, 26 kg of dynamite, 25 hand grenades, and 35 dynamite sticks—along with their owners. The search campaign, which was conducted on instructions from Interior Minister Hasan al- Alfi, is intended to confront all terrorists and criminals. The campaign was supervised by Major General Sami Katat, assistant to the interior minister for north Sinai security, and led by Brigadier General Muhammad Abu-Shu'ayshi', director of the Intelligence Department. Colonels Hilmi al-Shahabi, Budayr al-Qasir, and Ahmad Antus took part in the campaign.

In addition to the weapons, the campaign uncovered nine cases of robberies, 130 cases of car smuggling, three cases of drug trafficking and cultivating, eight cases of financial fraud, and five cases of forgery of foreign currencies. In addition, 182 suspects were arrested and referred to the State Security Intelligence Department. The campaign uncovered 42 cases of alcohol smuggling and prostitution, 1,106 cases of evasion of verdicts, 25 cases of illegal supplies, 1,193 traffic tickets, and 89 other cases. The defendants have been referred to the Public Prosecution Office, which has started interrogations.

Two Police Officers Killed by Unidentified Assailants

NC2001112094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—Major Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid Hasan, chief of the Baqur police station, within Abu Tij center in Asyut Governorate, Upper Egypt, and Sergeant Major 'Antar Madani Muhammad were killed this morning and conscript Muhammad Mahrus Fath-al-Bab was wounded when unknown assailants fired on them.

Making the statement, a responsible Interior Ministry security source said the major and the men accompanying him were passing by when two unidentified assailants fired at them killing the major and the sergeant major and wounding the conscript, who was taken to Abu Tij Hospital for treatment.

The security source added that the Asyut security forces immediately went to the scene and the area is being combed to arrest the criminals.

The prosecution has been informed to start investigations.

Palestinians Involved in Killing Policeman Detained

NC2001210994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—The Higher State Security Prosecution decided today to detain terrorists 'Ali Muhammad Ahmad Farhan and Samir Isma'il Salih, Palestinian nationals, for 15 days pending investigations for committing the terrorist crime in al-Ma'sarah yesterday morning.

The prosecution charged the two men with murdering Police Officer Sayyid 'Abd-al-Fattah Hasan, the attempted murder of Police Officer Khalid 'Adli, and possession of unlicensed firearms, explosives, and ammunition. The prosecution also decided to put the wounded terrorist 'Ali Muhammad Ahmad Farhan under guard in Qasr al-'Ayni Hospital.

The prosecution took statements from members of the police unit that was at the scene of the incident yesterday.

Members of the police unit also gave details about what was found in the apartment rented by the two suspects in al-Ma'sarah. Large quantities of bombs, explosives, and material used to manufacture explosives with the intention of carrying out terrorist acts and endangering security and public order were discovered in the apartment.

Interior Minister on Terrorism, al-Kikhya

NC2101084894 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 18 Jan 94 p 4

[Interview with Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi by Nabil Zaki; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Zaki] The government has repeatedly affirmed that terrorism has been eliminated and terrorists have been liquidated, but citizens were surprised by a serious escalation of terrorist operations, including an attempt to assassinate the prime minister. Do the security agencies have enough information on the terrorist networks, I mean information that indicates the actual magnitude of the problem?

[Al-Alfi] Currently they are concentrating on gathering the information. I can affirm that gathering and analyzing information is not limited to just inside Egypt but has expanded to include information on terrorist activities abroad. There is coordination among all police agencies in this regard.

As for statements on eliminating terrorism, I do not imagine we will eradicate and uproot the crime for good because crime has existed since man was created, since Cain and Abel. [passage omitted]

We must be prepared to confront violence and terrorism. The reason behind the latest escalation is that the terrorist groups target not only Egypt but also all the

Arab and Islamic countries. It has been noticed that the extremists and deviants have nothing to do with religion; they use religion as a pretext and use people with confused thinking in return for money. This was evident during investigations into recent cases. Besides, we do not wait for a terrorist act to happen and then react.

[Zaki] Does this mean that the initiative is now in the hands of security agencies?

[Al-Alfi] We no longer wait for a terrorist act to happen and then react. The initiative is now in our hands. Information is bound to flow to the security authorities now that the means of obtaining such information have been modernized. [passage omitted]

[Zaki] Don't you agree that there is slackness on the part of the security officials in protecting a public opposition figure, such as former Libyan minister Mansur al-Kikhya?

[Al-Alfi] First, Mansur al-Kikhya is a refugee in another country and not in Egypt. He did not take refuge in Egypt. We protect the refugees we have. As for al-Kikhya, he holds several nationalities and came to Egypt on an Algerian passport to participate in a conference of the Arab Human Rights Organization in Cairo. After the conference ended, he stayed on in the Safir Hotel without informing the authorities concerned.

[Zaki] Didn't he tell anyone?

[Al-Alfi] He came to participate in a conference of the Arab Human Rights Organization. He did not come as a refugee. We carried out our task to provide full security for the conference and nothing happened during the conference sessions. Al-Kikhya went to Alexandria for two days during the first week after the conference ended and returned to Cairo. During this time, some people contacted him asking to meet him and from then on he acted on his own. Intense security investigations are under way to learn about his movements during the week following the conference. To be precise, we must say that al-Kikhya did not come to us as a refugee but to attend a conference whose sessions were provided with full security. Investigations are continuing into those persons who met him last and into his movements and the places he frequented.

[Zaki] When Major General Hasan al-Alfi took responsibility for the Ministry of Interior, many people, including me, expected that this would put an end to any torture inside prisons and detention centers in Egypt. It was noticed that the government agreed to host the conference of the Arab Human Rights Organization in Cairo for the first time, which is a great development. Mr. Minister, is the talk about torture still existing in Egypt true?

[Al-Alfi] If there are excesses, they must be individual cases and not a common state practice. If such individual excesses have occurred, the perpetrators were questioned and some were actually put on trial. Judicial sentences were also passed against some and others were acquitted. Those who were sentenced are still serving their terms and some of them stood trial before a disciplinary court that punished them. These are individual acts and not part of the practices of the state, government, or the agency.

[Zaki] Is that not policy?

[Al-Alfi] Of course not. The recent persistent talk on this issue falls within the context of collusion between those who perpetrate acts of violence and terrorism and their defenders to confuse the situation and frustrate those who pursue and arrest the terrorists. Their aim is also to tarnish the image of police to delay them and limit their action. [passage omitted]

[Zaki] It is said that a large number of convicted people are at large.

[Al-Alfi] We have established a new department for this purpose. I believe that the police and judiciary's efforts are worthless if sentences against wrongdoers and convicts are not implemented. Hence, I set up a specialized department to implement the sentences, coordinate with courts, and follow up on sentences. Its task is also to coordinate with all the authorities that have fugitive convicts and suspects in pending court cases. It is a strong agency that has been provided with all facilities to arrest suspects and convicted fugitives, and we have achieved good results. [passage omitted]

Muslim Brotherhood, Labor Party Air Differences

NC1901132494

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic in its issues of 11 and 14 January carries several articles highlighting an apparent dispute between the Muslim Brotherhood and the Labor Party in connection with a recent call by the government for a dialogue with the opposition and the opposition's response to it.

In a 1,500-word article on page 5 of the 11 January edition, Muslim Brotherhood Spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi notes that the Brotherhood welcomes the call for national dialogue and refers to the consensus among political parties and other political forces that "political reform is the true introduction to any earnest reformation of our dear country's affairs."

He expresses astonishment at published statements saying that the dialogue will be restricted to five political parties the representatives of which will talk with the National Democratic Party's [NDP] representatives and that some political forces, notably the Muslim Brotherhood, have been excluded, at least from the initial stages of the dialogue.

He asks: "Who permitted these parties to speak for the nation and the people or even to speak for other political parties and forces, some of which, notably the Muslim Brotherhood, have a real presence in several associations and institutions, a presence that rivals—even exceeds—

the political weight and influence of these parties? I am afraid the gambit has succeeded and the government's party [NDP] has lured other parties into doing exactly the same thing they used to criticize the government and its party for doing. Each of these parties used to proclaim, for all the world to hear, that those who can speak on behalf of the people or make decisions pertaining to any public affair must be freely elected by the people in an integrated democratic process. How can these parties now participate in choosing the delegates to a conference that will discuss political, economic, and intellectual problems, et cetera? Is it enough to bestow legitimacy on them that the delegates are chosen by six political parties?"

Al-Hudaybi continues: "We say frankly that each of these six political parties represents only itself."

He cites the Wafd Party's newspaper [AL-WAFD] as reporting on 8 January 1994 that the 12 licensed political parties represent only 15 percent of the groups that speak for the nation.

In a special 300-word message to Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn published inside a box below the AL-SHA'B article, al- Hudaybi blames him for ignoring the Muslim Brotherhood in a recent article in which Husayn spoke of the need for political reform to enable the legal political parties to participate in elections.

Al-Hudaybi says: "I found that you limited the issue of political reform to expediting the exercise of political rights (elections). You repeatedly said that the elections should be held with the participation of what you called the legal parties. You did not say one word about the need to recognize other political forces, notably the Muslim Brotherhood. Your party carried it to the People's Assembly and it carried your party to the People's Assembly in the 1987 election. The same happened during the local elections of 1992. The Brotherhood established an Islamic alliance with your party, contesting the elections under the slogan 'Islam is the Solution.' This was originally a Muslim Brotherhood slogan."

Al-Hudaybi adds: "You also referred in your article to the State Security detectives' pursuit of the members of what you described as the legitimate parties. You did not say one word about their pursuit of and injustice to other political forces, as if you believe that these forces—not having obtained what you refer to as legitimacy—have no immunity and that their pursuit and confiscation of their means of livelihood no longer concern you, and that this is why you neglected to refer to them in any of the 10 principles mentioned in your article."

'Adil Husayn responds in a 700-word message published inside a box on page 5 of the 14 January edition of AL-SHA'B addressed to: "My brother Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi."

He says he can find no explanation for al-Hudaybi's remark that the political parties represent only themselves and reminds him that in their statement responding to the government's call for dialogue, the political parties agreed that the leaders and accredited representatives of the political parties and forces would take part in the dialogue. He advises him to resist the attempt to exclude the Muslim Brotherhood but not to reject the very idea of dialogue among the political parties and forces and the ruling party.

He declares: "Honorable brother, my opinion is known. It is that the Muslim Brotherhood must participate in any earnest political dialogue as an independent body, not via another party."

He adds: "It is strange that you should infer from my discussion of the legal guarantees we are demanding for the political parties that I am permitting the persecution of the Muslim Brotherhood. My dear sir, we are seeking to expand democracy so that the political forces that have not been recognized can be recognized, since they do have an undeniable presence."

Husayn expresses dissatisfaction with the "tone" of al-Hudaybi's article from "beginning to end."

He continues: "I did not feel comfortable with what you said about the Islamic alliance, particularly that the slogan 'Islam is the solution' is the Muslim Brotherhood's exclusive slogan. Actually it is the slogan of Muslims everywhere and in every age."

Husayn ends his response with a reference to the Labor Party's long-established Islamic credentials and addresses al-Hudaybi: "Concluding, my brother Counselor: The enemies of Islam are lying in wait for its advocates and concocting plots and sedition. We must be wary and vigilant. I still believe that what joins us together is the declaration: There is no God but God and Muhammad is his messenger. This is much more important than any differences between us. Brother counselor, I pray that God will clear the differences between you and me according to righteousness. May this chapter be closed."

Al-Jihad's Al-Zumur Offers Deal To Stop Bloodshed

NC1901170394 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 12 Jan 94 p 6

[Unattributed report from the "36 News Items" section of the "Political Week" page]

[Text] 'Abbud al-Zumur [leader of al-Jihad's military wing] has renewed an offer he made earlier to the Ministry of Interior. He is willing to help stop the bloodshed involving the police and the Islamic organizations and the operations against tourism in return for improving the treatment of inmates and releasing a number of the detained [Islamic] leaders.

Information affirms that the security sections have described the offer as an individual initiative not worth pursuing, particularly after the Islamic Group has announced that al-Zumur has joined its ranks and relinquished his leadership of one faction of the al-Jihad Organization.

Al-Baz Comments on Syrian-U.S. Summit, Palestinian Issue

NC1901190894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry undersecretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that the summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton was very important and that the Egyptian Government was aware of this from the beginning.

In an interview with Egyptian television on the "Good Morning Egypt" program today, Dr. al-Baz said that President Mubarak had a role in convening this meeting and in pushing matters forward. The meeting was held without delay because Egypt realized that such a meeting could produce positive results.

He added that Egypt is working toward one comprehensive agreement and not just agreements on some fronts. He stressed that Syria is one of the important parties in the peace process and that without movement on the Syrian track progress on the other tracks could be slow.

Dr. al-Baz said that the al-Asad-Clinton summit has had a positive impact, but this does not mean that an agreement was reached on specific issues to which Israel and Syria would be committed. The overall atmosphere and the assurances that could have been made in this meeting will, in our view, result in progress on the Syrian track. Dr. al-Baz expressed the hope that progress will be made on the Syrian track in the next few months.

Regarding Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo tomorrow, Thursday, Dr. al-Baz said that this meeting is also important because, despite the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, first in Oslo on 20 August and then in Washington on 13 September, the declaration is general and negotiations are needed to ensure its implementation. These negotiations are extremely important. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Baz also discussed the domestic situation. He emphasized that among President Mubarak's priorities is finding solutions to economic problems, particularly unemployment and price increases. Plans to upgrade education are also at the top of his priorities.

Concluding his interview, Dr. al-Baz said that attention is now being focused on internal and external issues to improve the internal situation.

AL-AHRAM on U.S.-Syrian Summit, Syrian-Israeli Peace

NC2101081294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper affirms that the available evidence on the al-Asad-Clinton summit in Geneva indicates that it was a good step toward stimulating the peace process, especially on the Syrian track, which has been inactive lately.

In its editorial Friday, the paper says that this is the first time that a genuine opportunity exists to normalize relations between Syria and Israel and that the ball is now in Israel's court. Israel, it adds, should respond to Syria's clear and forthright willingness to normalize relations with that country under a final peace accord. The paper calls on Israel to declare whether it is prepared for a complete withdrawal from the Golan.

In light of this, the paper notes, it can be said that the al-Asad-Clinton summit has been successful and that it will hold the door wide open for positive developments in the negotiations in Washington next week. Accordingly, the paper adds, we can say that 1994 will be a year of peace between Syria and Israel, which deserves to be called the peace of the brave.

Guinean Foreign Minister Sylla Arrives on Visit

NC1901160794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1457 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—Guinean Foreign Minister Ibrahima Sylla arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a visit that will last for several days. The Guinean minister will deliver a message to President Mubarak from Guinean President General Lansana Conte.

On his arrival the Guinean minister said that he will brief President Mubarak, in his capacity as OAU chairman, on the results of the elections that were held in Guinea on 17 December.

He praised relations between Guinea and his country, noting that his visit presents an opportunity to develop them further. He added that he will discuss issues of common interest with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Mubarak Receives Sylla

NC2001132694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received Guinean Foreign Minister Ibrahima Sylla, who delivered a message from Guinean President Lansana Conte. The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Guinean Charge d'Affaires in Cairo (Ibrahima Diallo).

Musa Comments on Relations

NC2001142394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—After President Mubarak received Guinean Foreign Minister Ibrahima Sylla today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated today that Mubarak handed Sylla a message answering the Guinean president. The foreign minister said bilateral relations between the two countries will continue, especially in light of recent developments in Guinea after presidential and legislative elections.

Guinean Foreign Minister Ibrahima Sylla stated that President Mubarak, in his capacity as current president of the OAU, is very concerned about all conflicts in the region.

He added that Guinean President Lansana Conte asked him to inform President Mubarak on the conflicts in that part of Africa, especially the problem in Liberia, which has started moving toward a solution.

The Guinean foreign minister praised Egypt's extensive diplomatic activity on Middle Eastern and African problems. He noted that he exchanged opinions with 'Amr Musa on the situation in the Middle East and Africa and other issues in the international arena.

Foreign Minister Sylla Departs

NC2001160394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—Guinean Foreign Minister Ibrahima Sylla left Cairo this afternoon after a one-day official visit during which he delivered a message to President Husni Mubarak from Guinean President Lansana Conte.

The Guinean minister also held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on bilateral relations and African issues of common interest.

Paper Accuses U.S. of Antifundamentalist Plans

NC2001095394 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] Al-SHA'B has learned that the U.S. Administration has conveyed a memorandum to some regional Arab countries containing the details of a U.S. plan that aims to exterminate Islamic fundamentalists this year. According to the memorandum, the step will be coordinated between the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A) [abbreviation in English] and the security services in these Arab countries.

The memorandum stressed that the cycle of fundamentalist terrorism has started to threaten particular regimes. It called for increasing financial aid by 30 percent to confront terrorism in the region. The U.S. plan calls for the following:

1. Signing a security agreement between the Arab countries and the United States on confronting religious terrorism;

2. Letting U.S. intelligence teams stay in the Arab countries permanently to survey the activities of the terrorist fundamentalists;

3. Intensifying punishment of detained terrorists;

4. Cornering [muhasarat] those states that support and harbor terrorist fundamentalists politically and economically. This is a reference to Sudan and Iran;

5. Expressing U.S. readiness to earmark part of its economic and military aid, granted to particular countries in the region, for confronting fundamentalist terrorism; and

6. Taking joint Arab-U.S. steps to establish a joint security committee that will cooperate with the U.S. intelligence service to curb and wipe out terrorism.

Paper Criticizes Cairo, Amman on Muslim Brotherhood

NC2101073694 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Jan 94 p 5

[Text] Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi [official spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood] left for Amman on 12 January to visit his daughter, who has been married to a Jordanian physician for 20 years. Al-Hudaybi was surprised when the Jordanian authorities banned him from entering without giving any reason. The Jordanian authorities even prevented him from seeing his daughter, who was waiting for him at the incoming passengers gate at the airport. Al- Hudaybi was forced to return to Egypt on the same plane.

This should have never taken place and should not pass unnoticed. The Egyptian authorities should have adopted a position and performed their duty in defense of the dignity of its nationals, particularly those who are prominent and well-known symbols. We hope that the Jordanian authorities will reconsider their position. It is an unacceptable attitude even if it was in retaliation for the Egyptian authorities' preventing Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, general guide of the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood, from entering Egypt. This is also unacceptable behavior.

Musa Receives New Argentine Ambassador

NC1901142394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—New Argentine Ambassador in Cairo Albino Gomez has voiced his country's support of Egypt's effort to boost the Middle East peace process and find a comprehensive settlement. In a statement today, the ambassador said his country has always backed efforts to find a peaceful solution to this crisis.

Gomez praised Egyptian-Argentine relations, adding that his country is eager to consolidate and develop these relations.

The ambassador was speaking after a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who received a copy of the ambassador's credentials.

Sudan

Officers Resign To Protest Deteriorating Military

NC2001120194 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Jan 94 p 9

["Exclusive" report on the "Brothers" page]

[Text] Many Army officers tendered their resignations to the commander in chief of the Armed Forces last week to protest the deteriorating military establishment. In their resignation letters, the officers said they rejected a new escalation of war in the south and a government plan to send a military expedition to the south comprising nationalist officers who are not affiliated with the National Islamic Front. The plan is seen as a government attempt to liquidate these officers in war.

The "Brothers" learned that the commander in chief has not yet replied to the resignations, both because the Army needs the officers' expertise and because there is no cash to pay the allowance to which they would be entitled.

Cooperation Accords Signed With Iran

EA2001170494 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Official discussions between Sudanese and Iranian officials were concluded in Khartoum yesterday. The two sides signed a joint communique which affirmed the depth of relations between Khartoum and Tehran. The communique included a number of new agreements in the spheres of investment, trade, economic cooperation and infrastructure.

Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, minister of presidential affairs, signed on behalf of the Sudanese side, while Gholam Reza Foruzesh, minister of construction jihad in his country, signed on behalf of the Iranian side.

Official Assails 'Campaign' Against Khartoum, Iran

LD2001144494 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 20, IRNA—Sudan's first deputy foreign minister, 'Umar Berido [name as received], here Thursday termed as baseless the smear campaign launched by the global arrogance both against Khartoum and Tehran to portray them as terorrists.

Interviewed by IRNA, Berido said that economic and political stability in Iran and Sudan prompted the global arrogance to make such accusations. He stressed that the global arrogance which attributed terorristic activities to Iran and Sudan has remained silent towards atrocities being committed against Muslims in Palestine and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Berido said that definitely the two countries will overcome the difficulties with the help of God.

Commenting on Tehran-Khartoum relations, the Sudanese official said bilateral ties enjoy special sigfnificance and are deep and friendly.

Kuwait

Government To Claim $25 Billion in Reparations

LD2001110794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0823 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Excerpt] In a press statement here today, Dr. Sa'd 'Akashah, director of the government claims department at the public compensations authority, said that the total of the claims to be presented by the State of Kuwait to the United Nations over the next six months is expected to be about 25 billion [milyar] dollars. In a statement to AL-ANBA, Dr. 'Akashah said that these claims did not include the losses in the petroleum sector and the environmental requirements that are to be dealt with at the beginning of February. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Yemeni Border Talks End; Next Session in Apr

LD2001223494 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Riyadh, 20 Jan (SPA)—The Saudi side in the joint Saudi-Yemeni border committee arrived this evening in Riyadh led by His Excellency Dr. Muttalib 'Abdallah al-Nafisah, chairman of the body of experts at the council of ministers, after the conclusion of the seventh round of negotiations between the two sides. The following joint press communique was released by the joint Saudi- Yemeni border committee of experts:

The joint Saudi-Yemeni border committee of experts held its seventh round in the city of Sanaa 17-20 January 1994. The committee resumed its deliberations about its tasks with regard to the borders between the two countries. A friendly and cordial atmosphere prevailed at the meetings. The two sides agreed to continue the negotiations and the discussions in a future meeting to be held in the city of Riyadh starting on 25 April 1994.

The Saudi side to the joint Saudi-Yemeni border committee of experts left Sanaa for Riyadh and was seen off by the head and members of the Yemeni side of the committee. The Saudi side expressed its thanks to the head and members of the Yemeni side for the warm welcome and hospitality.

Officials Receive Pakistani Army Chief of Staff

Meets With Counterpart in Riyadh

LD1901132694 Riyadh SPA in English 1256 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 19, SPA—General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, the chief of staff, met here today with visiting Chief of Staff of Pakistani Army General Abdul-Waheed and the accompanying delegation.

Earlier today General Salih al-Mahayyah, commander of the land forces, met with Abdul-Waheed and the accompanying delegation.

Meets With Deputy Defense Minister

LD1901213194 Riyadh SPA in English 1916 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 19 (SPA)—Deputy Minister of Defense and Aviation and Deputy Inspector General Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman met here today with visiting Pakistani chief of staff General Abdul-Waheed and his accompanying delegation to review the important roles of the Kingdom and Pakistan in several Islamic and international issues.

They also discussed the close historic relations binding the two countries and exchanged souvenirs to commemmorate this occasion.

German Economics Minister Rexrodt Continues Visit

Comments on Trade Talks

LD1901133894 Hamburg DPA in German 1207 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Riyadh (DPA)—German Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt is positive that trade with Saudi Arabia can be expanded and that mutual investment can be extended. It is in the interest of both sides to reactivate their trade, which dropped by just over 20 percent in the first half of 1993, Rexrodt said in Riyadh today at the end of his two-day working visit. He was accompanied by 35 representatives of German industry. Primarily Saudi Arabia wants to export more oil and petrochemical products.

Rexrodt sees great opportunities for expanding economic relations in joint ventures. So far there are only 70 joint ventures, mainly in the area of sales. However, there is German business interest in many areas, especially telecommunications, the sale of Airbus aircraft, ship building, power stations, sea water desalination plants, cement works and petrochemistry. Details of specific projects were not discussed.

In order to encourage investment Rexrodt thinks it necessary to improve conditions for this. An agreement on investment protection, due to be concluded in May, will make a considerable contribution to this. It will be the first investment protection agreement between Saudi Arabia and another country. The availability of information about the Saudi legal system should also be improved.

In connection with concern expressed by German businesses about the deterioration in Saudi payment morale, the German economics minister said he had raised this issue in his talks with the Saudi ministers for finance and economy, defense and aviation, industry, oil and trade.

Another issue discussed at the talks was the planned European Union energy tax, Rexrodt said. Like other oil-producing countries, Saudi Arabia fears that this may cause a decrease in oil imports. Rexrodt stressed that demand would not be reduced by a higher mineral oil tax or higher energy taxes. He also pointed out that a CO2 energy tax would subject German coal to a much greater burden than oil. In 1992, German exports to Saudi Arabia reached a value of 4.2 billion German marks [DM], while imports from Saudi Arabia, mainly of crude oil, reached DM 2 billion.

Meets GCC Secretary General

LD1901184494 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1358 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Riyadh, 19 Jan—His Excellency Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi, the secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], this morning at the council headquarters met His Excellency Dr. Guenter Rexrodt, the German economics minister.

During the meeting, economic and trade relations between the two sides were discussed. Relations between the GCC states and the European Union, within the framework of the economic agreement concluded between them in 1988, and the ongoing talks between the GCC and the European Union on a free trade agreement, were also reviewed.

The German side heard briefing by his excellency the secretary general on the achievements of collective work within the framework of the GCC.

Dr. Abdullah al-Quwayz, the assistant secretary general for economic affairs, and a number of officials in the General Secretariat took part in the meeting.

Holds Briefing on Trade Issues

LD1901221594 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1838 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 19 Jan—German Economic Affairs Minister Dr Guenther Rexrodt has said that during his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia he had the honor of meeting the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. [passage omitted]

In an opening statement at a news conference held today at the Palace of Conferences in Riyadh, he said that the aim of his visit to the Kingdom is to strengthen relations between the two countries, particularly in the economic sphere, by expanding trade and encouraging two-way investment. He stressed that Germany is considered as one of the Kingdom's trade partners, pointing out that the Kingdom has expressed a desire to alter the balance of trade with Germany by expanding its exports to Germany and setting up more joint companies.

He said: We believe that it would be possible to increase the number of joint companies by providing different and more facilities than the existing ones.

The German economics minister said that he had discussions with Minister of Finance and National Economy Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl on numerous issues of interest to the two countries.

He stressed that an atmosphere of complete frankness prevailed at his talks with officials in the Kingdom, and added that there is a feeling of deep and sincere friendship between the two sides which would serve the relations of cooperation between them, which he described as having reached a very good level.

In his replies to journalists, the German economics minister expressed his great admiration for the investments made in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He said in this respect: "I have seen a country with an abundance of investments which follows a wise policy and which has huge natural resources that it endeavors to preserve and expand."

He described the relations between the Kingdom and Germany as close and marked by mutual trust and respect, and said that the Kingdom is a country which values traditional relations. He added: We are very pleased that Germany is among the most active commercial and economic friends of this country.

Asked if agreements were signed during his visit to the Kingdom, his excellency said that no agreement was signed during the visit. He added: "The two countries believe in a free market economy and this is why we have left the commercial issues to be tackled by companies in the two countries."

He also expressed his thanks to the Saudi officials for their tireless efforts to remove the obstacles hindering trade between the two countries. The German minister then mentioned the forthcoming meeting of the joint Saudi-German committee due to be held in Germany in the next few months.

In reply to a question on trade exchanges between the Gulf Cooperation Council member-states and the European Community, the minister indicated that both sides are very interested in reaching an agreement on free trade. He added that Germany is prepared to play a role in this respect out of its belief in free world trade.

Regarding Germany's stand on the imposition of a carbon tax on energy, Dr Rexrodt said: "No early decision will be taken on the matter, and there is no scope at the moment for the imposition of such a tax."

In reply to a question on the purchase by the Kingdom of civilian aircraft to modernize the fleet of Saudi Airlines and on possible German participation in this, the German economics minister said: We know that the Kingdom is thinking of renewing its fleet and every large company capable of delivering the required equipment is trying to enter the competition in the Kingdom. We are interested in the participation of our large companies in the renewal of the fleet of Saudi aircraft.

Yemen

Officials React to Document of Pledge, Accord

GPC Welcomes Document

JN1901122394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Statement issued by the General Committee of the General People's Congress; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In light of the atmosphere of hope and optimism which has begun to prevail in the country, the General Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] would like to extend its warmest congratulations to the lofty Yemeni masses on the occasion of the signing, in heroic Aden today, of a document of pledge and accord to build a modern Yemeni state by parties to the Political Forces Dialogue.

The GPC considers this step a crowning of the sincere national efforts to put a decisive end to the political crisis and its regrettable repercussions, which have negatively reflected on the lives of the citizens and harmed the homeland's interests and stability.

Hence, the GPC's General Committee welcomes the positive results that have been achieved and stresses its adherence to the contents of the Document of Pledge and Accord. It, along with all the forces of goodwill in the country, hopes that this approved national step will be the beginning of a translation and achievement of all the aspirations of our people. These aspirations include maintaining the unity of the homeland and reinforcing the pluralistic democratic experiment; building the modern Yemeni state—the state of law and order—as well as the constitutional institutions founded on justice, democracy, and respect for human rights; entrenching the bases of local government which are based on administrative and financial decentralization; seeking to alleviate the suffering of the citizens and securing their daily life requirements; and achieving a cultural awakening in modern Yemen.

Moreover, the GPC also expresses its deep appreciation for the Political Forces Dialogue Committee for its extensive efforts and the formidable difficulties it faced to achieve this document, which is an obligating pledge or (?contract) for everyone. It is a document that should be adhered to and put into practice by everyone to shoulder his responsibility to achieve what is contained in this document as far as implementation mechanisms and timetables are concerned.

The GPC continues to be loyal to Yemen and its people and is concerned about unity, democracy, and national accord. It has been guided by wisdom and patience in order to remove all the dangers and challenges facing this homeland. Moreover, throughout the crisis, the GPC's stands have been marked by national responsibility, good sense, and self-restraint. It strongly refused to be drawn into the perils of escalation which harms the homeland and its unity, the democratic formula, and the citizens' interests. Hence, the GPC announces that it will not hesitate to exert every effort and join hands with all those who are concerned about Yemen—the Yemen of unity and democracy—in order to triumph for the issues of the homeland and the people, to practically implement all agreements, and to move our homeland toward a better and prosperous future in fulfillment of all our people's aspirations and ambitions of progress, growth, and prosperity under the banner of unity, democracy, and peace.

Issued by the GPC's General Committee.

Cabinet Notes 'Satisfaction'

JN1901144694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a meeting today under First Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Hasan Makki and discussed the Document of Pledge and Accord, issued by the Political Forces Dialogue Committee. The Council of Ministers reviewed the document, which includes measures to build a Yemeni state, and expressed its satisfaction with what had been achieved. It also voiced its gratitude to the brothers in the dialogue committee and to those who contributed to persisting efforts that have produced that historic document. [passage omitted]

Al-Bid: Peace Accord Conditional

NC1901204294 Paris AFP in English 1924 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, Jan 19 (AFP)—A key player in the Yemeni crisis on Wednesday cast a shadow over a peace accord to settle the country's political dispute, saying he demanded guarantees for his security before signing it.

Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, a southerner and leader of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), said he was satisfied with the agreement reached Tuesday but said he wanted to be briefed on security arrangements for the signing ceremony before committing himself.

Al-Bid has since August been embroiled in a dispute over the running of the country with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, a northerner and head of the ruling General People's Congress (GPC).

The agreement on a range of reforms reached by representatives of Yemen's major political forces, notably the YSP and GPC, specifies in Article 7 that a committee be created to "establish security conditions required for the signature of the accord," by Salih and al-Bid.

"The committee must first present the required program for implementation of Article 7 and then we'll offer our point of view," al-Bid told AFP.

More than 150 YSP officials have been killed in attacks since North and South Yemen merged in May 1990. Al-Bid's party has blamed several of the attacks on the Islamic Jihad organization which it says is protected by the northern Al-Islah Islamic party.

A GPC spokesman meanwhile said Salih had unconditionally accepted the agreement "and is ready to sign, on the date and at the time specified, the accord he considers a good step emerging from the current crisis and that he is ready to translate it into action."

The GPC's political bureau voiced the party's commitment to compliance with all the accord's clauses, notably those on security arrangements and administrative decentralization.

Al-Bid, the president of the former south, left the capital for his home in Aden on August 19, demanding political and economic reforms. Earlier this month he refused to attend a reconciliation meeting with Salih.

The vice president's comments Wednesday were in reply to a statement by Hammud Hashim al-Dharahi, a representative of the Islamic Al-Islah party and a member of the security committee, who told AFP that al-Bid was "prepared to accept the date and place proposed by the committee for the signing of the accord."

The accord was drawn up during two months of tough negotiations and calls for the withdrawal within one week of forces deployed along the former border between North and South Yemen.

The cabinet, meeting Wednesday in Sanaa under First Deputy Prime Minister Hasan Muhammad Makki, voiced satisfaction with the accord.

Announcement of the agreement came only hours after the GPC charged that a southern Yemeni warplane had bombed a northern army brigade. GPC and YSP officials had accused each other of massing troops along the former border.

Salih, al-Bid Approve Document

JN1901203394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, have blessed and approved the Document of Pledge and Accord. They gave the committee full authority to set a date and venue for the final endorsement of the document. This took place when the brother chairman and vice chairman received the committee.

This was stated by brother Ahmad Salim 'Afif, the rapporteur of the committee entrusted by the Political Forces Dialogue Committee to follow up the implementation of the seventh paragraph of the Document of Pledge and Accord.

Brother Ahmad Jabir 'Afif added that the committee will hold its next meeting tomorrow morning to draft a program. Then it will show it to the brother chairman and vice chairman.

Signing Ceremony Under Husayn's Patronage Expected

JN2001111994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Jan 94 pp 1, 26

[From Salih al-Qallab in Aden]

[Excerpts] Now that an agreement has been initialed among the political forces in Yemen, the Yemeni crisis, which has been going on since August and which has recently reached the point of armed confrontation, has taken a wide step toward reconciliation. However, it cannot be said that everything is definitively over and that the clouds have rolled by, never to return unless this agreement is implemented in accordance with a definite timeframe.

A good reading of this agreement will show that the Yemeni unity, which began in May 1990, is heading toward a confederation This is clear from the agreement's emphasis on decentralizing the Yemeni republic's administration. In fact, this would in any case prove to be a thousand times better than a shaky merger liable to explode at any moment. In addition to the decentralized administration, the agreement stipulates redeployment of forces and removing military posts situated in and outside towns.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that efforts are now being made to prepare for a large ceremony so that Salih al-Bid can sign the agreement under King Husayn's patronage and in the presence of Omani Sultan Qabus and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. Other Arab officials may be invited to this signing ceremony in addition to the diplomatic corps. Obviously, the site of this celebration in which the president and his deputy will meet for the first time in five months, is still a controversial issue. [passage omitted]

A senior Yemeni source which participated in drafting the agreement, regarded now by the Yemenis as a new proclamation of unity, said that al-Bid, who has been residing in Aden since August, informed the dialogue committee that he was prepared to meet with the president in any place and at any time that the committee sees fit and that he has no reservations on anything that is based on the contents of the agreement.

While it is true that the agreement has ended the tension and imparted an atmosphere of relief represented by the drop in the dollar price from 75 to 50 Yemeni rials on the black market within hours of the announcement of the agreement, optimists put the rate of possible success in implementing the agreement at only 40 percent. [passage omitted]

It is well known that there are currently four armies of different sizes and diverging loyalties in Yemen. These are the Sanaa-based army which takes orders from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Aden-based army which takes orders from 'Ali Salim al- Bid, an army owing allegiance to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, the former president of the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and paramilitary militias which belong to the reform movement led by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar.

Reliable information sources say that all the Yemeni groups which reached the agreement the day before yesterday have agreed to seek the assistance of Jordanian military expertise to reunite and rehabilitate the Yemeni Armed Forces. If all goes well, a Jordanian Army force will travel to Yemen within three weeks. [passage omitted]

Salih Urges al-Bid, YSP Officials' Return to Sanaa

JN2001215394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, met with [passage indistinct]. Addressing attendees, the brother chairman said: We should transcend trivialities and be as great as the homeland is. [words indistinct]. He said that the command of the general People's Congress has welcomed and supported the document that has been drafted by the National Dialogue Committee, and that it has blessed it in its entirety. He said: What is left to be done is to translate the document into action. Our brothers in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], led by brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, cabinet members, and all YSP leaders should return to Sanaa, the political capital of unified Yemen to exercise their executive and constitutional tasks until the crisis ends forever. This is in response to the aspirations of our Yemeni people and to the national interest.

He urged the political forces and sons of the homeland to transcend trivialities [words indistinct] for the sake of the Yemen of 22 May 1990 and to help the dialogue committee implement its missions to enable the homeland to reach the shores of safety. He urged political forces to respond to the demands of the masses and to adopt their concerns and represent their aspirations and respect their will. He said that this is only possible when everyone renounces selfish interests and advocates the supreme interests of the Yemeni masses and homeland.

The brother president urged the executive authority and all workers in all governorates [words indistinct] and government institutions and facilities to give up passiveness and laxity, to work harder, and to stop attributing their passiveness to the political crisis. He also urged political forces and all sons of the homeland to support and advise their people to maintain security, stability, tranquility, and national unity. He blessed all the decisions and recommendations contained in the statements issued by the expanded popular gatherings in the capital and in the governorates of al-Bayda', Dhimar, Sa'dah and all governorates of the republic. He said: We bless those decisions which reflect a great national sense and strong eagerness to adhere to the national constants and to preserve the country's achievements, at the head of which are unity and democracy. He indicated that through unity, our people have turned over the leaf of agonies and tragedies, and that through unity, the status of the Yemeni people and Yemen has become greater in the eyes of the world. He said: Today, we should be stronger. We should not bend our heads before the wicked plots against unity, security, stability, and peace in our country.

The brother president praised the move undertaken by the sons of al-Bayda' Governorate to hold a general reconciliation among the sons of the governorate to end acts of revenge. He also praised their work to achieve security, stability, and the supremacy of the law. He called for such a reconciliation at the national level throughout Yemen to end acts of revenge and spare Yemeni blood.

A number of brothers also spoke on behalf of the expanded popular gatherings of the population of the capital and the governorates of al-Bayda', Dhimar, and Sa'dah. They expressed the people's happiness with and support for the document of pledge and accord that has been drafted by the National Dialogue Committee. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Forces Reportedly Prepared To Intervene

PM1901170094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Jan 94 pp1, 4

[Political Studies Center report: "The Story of the Dispatch of Jordanian Disengagement Force to Yemen: Force Recalled While Airborne After Conversation Between King Husayn and al-Bid"]

[Excerpt] London—Informed Arab sources have revealed details of the story of the dispatch of Jordanian disengagement forces to border areas between the two parts of Yemen to observe the withdrawal of the forces of Aden's Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and Sanaa's General People's Congress [GPC] from the borders and to prevent any clashes between them because of the tense situation there.

The sources said that the idea of sending Jordanian disengagement forces was conveyed to Amman by Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister Mujahid Abu-Shawarib when he visited the Jordanian capital a while back and held talks with King Husayn of Jordan on the latest developments in the Yemeni crisis.

The sources said they believed that King HUsayn understood from Abu-Shawarib that the idea of sending Jordanian forces to the border between the two parts of Yemen had the approval of Yemeni President 'Ali

'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, and that is why he ordered the relevant authorities in the Jordanian Army command to prepare these forces for immediate departure for specified areas in Yemen.

The force, consisting of a number of officers and warrant officers, boarded a military aircraft which took off for Sanaa but did not complete the journey, returning halfway through the flight after receiving orders to do so from the Jordanian command.

According to the sources, it seems that King Husayn, in a telephone conversation with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, discovered that the idea of sending Jordanian disengagement forces to the border areas was a "northern" idea only, and so he ordered the force to return to Amman. [passage omitted]

Salih Returns to Sanaa After Visit to Ta'izz, Ibb

JN1901210894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, returned this afternoon to the capital, Sanaa, following an inspection visit to the governorates of Ta'izz and Ibb.

During the visit, the chairman of the Presidential Council took note of citizens' affairs and of work at government facilities and agencies in the two governorates. He also met with the brother officials of executive agencies, their eminence the ulema, social figures, the leaders of political party and organization branches, and the leaders of mass, creative, and professional organizations.

He discussed with them many national issues and developments, primarily the recent developments in our country. He also spoke to them, stressing the need to unify all efforts and energies in order to shoulder responsibilities and perform tasks so our country can overcome all difficulties and challenges and create good prospects for progress and prosperity.

He stressed the need for making efforts to enhance national accord and cohesion of ranks and to advance the march of development to achieve our people's ambitions and hopes for progress and development.

During the visit, the chairman of the Presidential Council was accompanied by several officials.

EC Ambassadorial Delegation Meets With Leaders

Salih Receives Delegation in Ta'izz

JN1901143694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received the ambassadors of the EC member states in Ta'izz today. They reviewed aspects of relations between our country and the EC member states and discussed developments in our country in light of the results of the ambassadors' previous meetings with the brother president and the vice president and in light of the Document of Pledge and Accord, worked out by the Political Forces Dialogue Committee to build a modern Yemeni state.

The ambassadors said their countries' welcomed and gave their blessings for the document as a positive step toward ending the crisis peacefully and achieving stability in Yemen. They als[] expressed hope that the document would be implemented effectively. They reaffirmed their countries' support for unity and democracy, their appreciation of dialogue as a basis for solutions, and their objection to violence and military action. They also said that the EC member states are eager to maintain fruitful cooperation and to support the march of social and economic development in the Republic of Yemen.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah and General People's Congress member 'Abd-al-Karim al- Iryani.

Al-Bid Receives Delegation in Aden

JN2001125794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman, today received in Aden a delegation from the EC ambassadors accredited to our country. They discussed the ties of friendship and cooperation between our country and the EC member states and the prospects for improving them. They also exchanged views on developments in the national arena in the light of the results reached by the political forces dialogue committee, which will help address the situation and complications, overcome the difficulties that faced the march of unity and democracy, and establish genuine bases for building the modern Yemeni state.

The ambassadors voiced their countries' welcome and blessing of the success achieved by the dialogue committee and its signing of the document of pledge and accord to build modern Yemen. They said these results mark a success for the Yemeni people in overcoming difficulties. They said they hope the agreement will be applied in practice. The delegation reaffirmed the EC member states' support and backing for unity and democracy. They stressed their states' interest in strengthening cooperation and backing the efforts to entrench stability, strengthen security, and support the efforts of comprehensive development.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman, voiced appreciation for the EC member states' support and concern for supporting the march of unity and democracy and the building of modern Yemen. He stressed our country's interest in strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation with the European countries for the benefit of the Yemeni people and the peoples of these friendly states, and for the benefit of security and stability.

The meeting was attended by brother Muhammad Salih (?Qubaysi), the acting under secretary at the Foreign Ministry's branch in Aden.

Al-'Attas Receives Delegation

JN2001214194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has received (Jean Martel), the French ambassador to our country; [name indistinct], the German charge d'affaires in our country; and EC representatives. They extended the congratulations of their countries and the EC states on the results achieved by the political forces' dialogue committee to circumvent the recent crisis in our country.

They also stressed their eagerness to support the march of accord, unity, and democracy, and expressed their countries' readiness to take part in whatever would secure the necessary circumstances and guarantees to implement this agreement. This agreement will help Yemen take great steps forward.

Brother al-'Attas voiced his thanks and appreciation for the EC ambassadors for the interest they showed in the Yemeni crisis and for helping circumvent and end it. He affirmed that the pledge and accord document requires great efforts and potentials to implement its content.

The brother prime minister also expressed confidence that the EC states and all friends will extend every possible aid to implement this agreement. Brother Muhammad Salih (?al-Qatays), the acting under secretary at the Foreign Ministry's branch in Aden, attended the meeting.

Al-Bid Receives Jordanian Ambassador in Aden

JN1901211194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, received in Aden at noon today brother Dr. Fayiz al-Rabi', the Jordanian ambassador to our country, to make his acquaintance. During the meeting, they reviewed the brotherly relations between our country and Jordan. They also exchanged views on the current situation and developments.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid appreciated the efforts that His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and other brothers in Jordan have exerted to help our country overcome the difficulties and obstacles that are facing the march of unity and democracy. He also appreciated their eagerness to bolster stability in our country. He stressed the importance of bolstering the brotherly bilateral relations and expanding the scope of cooperation in the service of the common interests of the brotherly Yemeni and Jordanian peoples.

At the end of the meeting, the brother vice chairman asked the Jordanian ambassador to convey his greetings to his Majesty King Husayn and his wishes for his majesty's continued health and happiness and for Jordanian people continued progress.

Saddam Addresses Athens Conference Team

JN1901114094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2230 GMT 18 Jan 94

["Text" of address by President Saddam Husayn to a delegation from the Athens International Conference on Solidarity With Iraq during a meeting held in Baghdad on 18 January]

[Text] I am pleased to meet you all, starting with the general who heads the delegation, as well as every member of the delegation.

I greet you on behalf of the Iraqi people. I also value your stand and thank you for the difficulties you endured during the long journey, especially since you had to come by car most of the way as a result of, as you know, the air embargo imposed on our country.

I am sure that all the Iraqi people are well aware of what your stand means. As you also know, one loses many loved ones, particularly if one is an official and not an ordinary citizen. We have lost many loved ones but at the same time we have won many friends. We have won you as well as others who have truly understood the nature of our stand and why the conflict had taken place.

We have lost many beloved ones. However, the experience enabled us to expose some false friends who used to speak about friendship before the war. The experience also enabled us to expose on a large scale many of the enemies as their enmity was not based on a worthy cause and did not stem from a just stand.

I am certain that you know, as I know, many of the details concerning the real state of affairs. That's why I will not burden you with a review of the details of what you already know, or what you could come to know. But I believe it is my duty and it is your right that I contribute as best as I can to entrenching the basic pillars of your concept on how to combat injustice.

Some of those who spoke a few moments ago said that they are trying to convince the public opinion in their countries to remove the injustice done to the Iraqi people. Although they have made large strides when compared with where they started, they believe they still have much to do to make the public opinion in their countries understand the situation as they themselves understand it.

I would like here to comment and say that your work is of the constructive type. It achieves advancement. Therefore, do not expect to gain much at the beginning. The major calls and missions, including the prophets' missions to communicate God's message to mankind started with a small group, then spread to millions, as you know. One of the male or female speakers has said that the public opinion in Europe has started to comprehend and has started to become aware of part of the deception practised against it at the beginning of the incidents, not to mention the injustice that has befallen Iraq as a result of the aggresion.

I would like to say the following on this issue: We rejoice at these positive manifestations you spoke about. However, what is more important is that the European public opinion not be deceived once again. If the European and world public opinion is no longer deceived as it had been deceived by the false U.S. claims and the claims of the Kuwaiti rulers who oppress the Kuwaiti people, if the real cause which led to the deception is known, and if this cause is remedied, then we will all be satisfied because the blood of the Iraqis would have achieved an important gain on the human level in terms of making the truth known to all and exposing the evildoers without their being able to deceive others for a long period of time.

In any case, what is important is that we pinpoint where the mistake is and the party responsible for it. But, it is in mankind's interest that we all cooperate to prevent mistakes. But, if mistakes are committed, then we all have to do what we can to minimize their impact as much as possible, particularly if they have to do with humanitarian issues which directly affect the individual and his rights.

Some speakers said that they have noticed that many quarters used to believe that the injustice emanating from this or that country would last for a long time. But that now they no longer believe this. They also used to believe that some would collapse from the blows that were dealt against them. As of now, they no longer say this and, instead, affirm that Iraq cannot collapse as a result of the blows it is dealt.

I would like to comment on this by saying the following: We must pinpoint how the opposition behaves, whether this side is right or wrong in what it does. This is an essential requirement of scientific research and analysis. However, what has more value for us are those who support what is right, irrespective of their preliminary assessment of whether right will triumph within a specific period of time, or will only triumph on the longer term. I believe that your stand is more sound than any of the stands adopted by the others who approach matters from a technical point of view. They support wrong when they believe wrong will triumph, and they support right when they believe it will triumph. What is important to us, from a humanitarian and principled standpoint, is that we support right irrespective of the results—irrespective of whether right will triumph or not, from a technical point of view, within a specific period of time, or whether wrong is defeated or not, again from a technical point view, along with its defeat on the ideological level.

As a person from Iraq, and as an official from Iraq, I place high value on your stand because you supported right irrespective of the technical results it might attain in its confrontation with these major blocs with their immense material potential and because you opted for this honest and sound stand. Humanity has many worries. This dictates that all of us must work hard for its sake. However, the most important thing that will save mankind from the pitfalls into which the leaders drag it is an honest and frank dialogue among the people and nations, whether through their popular organizations, or even through their rulers. Although some rulers speak about dialogue and how important it is, about democracy and how necessary it is, and about themselves and the influence they can have on others, they, in reality, do not like dialogue.

You know, for example, that former U.S. President Bush mobilized all media organizations to tarnish the image of Iraq. He wanted to affect the people of Iraq with his propaganda. We proposed that he directly address the people of Iraq. We also proposed that we broadcast his address or the debate, which we proposed to conduct with him, and, at the same time, have the debate broadcast in America so that the American and Iraqi people would make their judgment in light of the results of this debate, its nature, and its components. Our objective was to help those who stood on the side of justice or against it. He, however, rejected the proposal. In order to tackle the embarrassment caused by his rejection, he addressed a brief message to the people of Iraq that smacked of threat rather than a spirit of dialogue.

In any case, we should always know how to differentiate between the democracy that is only a political practice to serve the interests of the rulers, on one hand, and the democracy that stems from a principle based on respecting people and their will and on providing an appropriate atmosphere for this people to exercise their role in political life, on the other.

I have no doubt, and I know, that rulers in all democratic countries in the West pay great attention to public opinion in their countries. Why? This is because public opinion decides whether or not they will be reelected. However, when certain rulers believe that public opinion will not affect the results of elections they ignore public opinion in their countries. Therefore, if a ruler discovers that there is a journalist, a newspaper, or a television station that is ready to falsify some matters to promote his chances of winning—or to hide a fact from public opinion so that his chances of winning will increase and the opportunities to weaken his winning chances will diminish—he will not be disturbed. Neither will he say that such distortion is illegal because this has affected public opinion. He will not be disturbed by this. In fact, some of those rulers would work in order to provide such an atmosphere, given the rule we mentioned earlier with regard to the issue of elections.

The effects of any problem could be small when this problem is confined to one country. However, this problem could become bigger when some rulers, of the kind we spoke about, emerge in these countries. Despite this, they talk about themselves as being a country whose democratic approach must be followed by others, when, at the same time, they deny other peoples the right to choose their own approach.

Let us take another example you know, from America. You know that the war would not have broken out and the Security Council would not have adopted its resolution against Iraq had it not been for the American decision. Human blood was shed regardless of its source, whether a Frenchman was killed, an Iraqi was martyred, or an American was killed. They all were killed because of this war. False information contributed to making the war decision. False information was disseminated in America and the U.S. President and his aides were aware of it. They learned about the story of a young girl, who was the daughter of a Kuwaiti official, who was introduced to a film director in accordance with a special scenario, and who acted falsely when she cried on television. She told a story in which she said that she saw Iraqi soldiers taking incubators from Kuwaiti hospitals to take them to Baghdad. This story was later exposed and it became clear that the whole thing was fabricated. However, what happened to those who fabricated this story? This story was responsible for shedding the blood of many people. It played a role in making the American public accept the war idea. Thus, U.S. public opinion was deceived, and as a result of this deception, it gave in to the American rulers' premeditated intentions.

So, as peoples, wherever we find an official in charge who understands the peoples' principles and has faith in human relations, we must work hard to reach a sound level of human relations and of relations among peoples and nations.

The prophet says that a Muslim cannot commit adultery. Nor can a Muslim steal or lie. A Muslim cannot lie. So, when a Muslim ruler lies then he has lost every legitimate right to be a ruler. And you know that one of the Ten Commandments is: "Thou shalt not lie."

I do not want to take much of your time. Although we know that this is an uncommon opportunity, you are friends and guests in Iraq, and we should not bore you and or take advantage of your presence as guests here to explain all our problems to you.

The work you are undertaking is considered great by almighty God and the people of the world, because you are truly democratic and because you want others to enjoy what you yourselves are enjoying. Meanwhile, the others—those who speak about democracy and human rights— kill and slaughter people and persist in killing and starving them to death.

If we wish, we could become friends with this type of people overnight. But friendship for those rulers who mobilized their armies against us means that we should be illiterate, that we should disrespect our people, and that we should divide our people's wealth between us and them. They want this wealth to be personally divided. In other words, they want us to take the share that they give us so that we put it in the banks of Switzerland, England, America, or France, leaving our people hungry. They want us to give them the bigger share. Besides, they want us to rule in an autocratic way and to tell them that we accept any decision they make for us.

Isn't this the situation of their friends in the Third World, or at least in our region? Do you not know their names?

Such behavior cannot exist among the people of Iraq. The Iraqi people will not accept a ruler or a leader of this kind. If facts should be plain and the public should be left to realize matters as they truly are, then I do not think that the American people would wish to have such friends. Nor do I think that the American or the French people, who are known to be an enlightened people, or the Greek, German, English, and all European and world peoples would wish to have such friends.

Please convey our greetings on behalf of the Iraqi people to all those who attended your conference in Athens and told the truth. Please convey our greetings to all those who asked you to convey their greetings to the people of Iraq.

I also hope that George Kaloi [name as received] from Britain will convey my greetings to the Palestine Club that asked him to convey its greetings to us. This is what democratic thinking dictates. A democrat should be honest. It shows respect for others' opinions to convey the message honestly. If you, Mr. Kaloi, try to note what the English papers have said, you will not find a wide favorable response.

You are welcome.

Saddam, Son Attend General Command Meeting

JN2001113894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1113 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jan (INA)—Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, Armed Forces commander in chief, has convened a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commander in Chief Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim and the director of the Special Security Apparatus [Qusayy Husayn, Saddam's son].

Saddam Orders Increase in Monthly Rations in Feb

JN1901201794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has ordered an increase in the rice, vegetable oils, tea, washing detergents, and soap rations. This has been stated to the Iraqi News Agency by Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih. He explained that the increase in these rations, as ordered by the leader president, will become effective in February. They are as follows:

—The monthly rice ration per individual shall be increased by 250 grams, up to 2.5 kg from 2.25 kg.

—The monthly vegetable oils ration per individual shall be increased by 125 grams, up to 625 grams from 500 grams.

—The monthly tea ration per individual shall be increased by 25 grams, up to 100 grams from 75 grams.

—The monthly washing detergents ration per individual shall be increased by 50 grams, up to 250 grams from 200 grams.

—The monthly soap ration per individual shall be increased by 25 grams, up to 150 grams from 125 grams.

The trade minister explained that the new increases of the supplies included in the ration card range from 20-33 percent per month.

Dailies Commemorate Gulf War Anniversary

JN2101090494

[Editorial Report] The Iraqi newspapers AL-'IRAQ, AL-JUMHURIYAH, and AL-THAWRAH, in their 17 January editions, commemorate the third anniversary of the Gulf war. The editorials of these newspapers, as well as several inside articles, lavish praise on the "Mother of Battles," and commend the Iraqi leadership's performance during the Gulf crisis and war. The Baghdad newspapers AL-QADISIYAH and BABIL 17 January editions, have not thus far been received by Jordan Bureau.

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH, publishes on pages 1, 2, a 600-word article by Salah al-Mukhtar celebrating the salvation of Iraq under Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. It says: "Iraq has survived the military aggression ordeal, during which the weapons of the 21st century produced to defeat the then second world superpower (the Soviet Union) were used. The potential for renaissance and reconstruction in Iraq remained intact. Thus, Iraq thwarted the centerpiece of the Western-Zionist scheme, which was the destruction of the potential for renaissance and progress in Iraq, as well as the elimination of the creative political and technological mind behind this renaissance and progress."

The writer describes the "30-state aggression" as an "existential challenge" that elicited determination and strengthened the national will to rebuild the country, enhance steadfastness, and uphold principles, and national independence. He maintains that Iraq's performance during the Gulf war has earned it the admiration of "freedom fighters everywhere." Consequently, the writer argues, world peoples have chosen to walk the path of national resistance to fight U.S. attempts at "domination."

The writer cites the examples of starving Somalia and, alluding to the former Soviet Union, "superpowers" that disintegrated and became "Third World" nations. He says that "an open and strong spirit of resistance to U.S. colonialism has been stepped up. Consequently, U.S. colonialism suffered a string of abysmal defeats in 1993. For, U.S. agents and the advocates of (market economy) have been defeated. Moreover, the forces advocating freedom, socialism, and independence triumphed in several European states."

The writer contends that these "positive changes, which are bound to bring closer the dawn of freedom as well as the final defeat of U.S. colonialism, have taken place because other peoples have learned the lessons provided by the Mother of Battles. These peoples have benefited from these lessons in their struggle against attempts at domination. The major lesson learned was that steadfastness is the midwife that helps produce almost impossible results."

Concluding his article, the writer maintains that "the Achilles heel of U.S. colonialism lies in creating several Mothers of Battles." He adds: "Each and every people must prepare for their own Mother of Battles. For, when there are several resistance arenas all over the world, the United States will find itself compelled to retreat into its own cocoon as a result of its intrinsic impotence, and also because it does not have the components required for colonizing the universe."

An editorial in AL-'IRAQ newspaper, on pages 1, 6, cites the speech delivered by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the occasion on 16 January 1994, filed as second referent item.

The 600-word editorial commends the "steadfastness and heroism" demonstrated in the "Mother of Battles." It carries brief excerpts from the speech Saddam delivered on 16 January 1994. The editorial says: "Erroneous calculations lead to erroneous results. That is why evildoers, once again, became hostage to their lopsided and parochial perspective when they thought that their extraordinary and ferocious aggression was enough to bring Iraq to its knees so that they could force their dictates on it, and consequently make an example of it to terrorize the world, as leader President Saddam Husayn has said in the historic speech he has delivered marking the third anniversary of the great showdown of the Mother of Battles."

The editorial maintains that the calculations of the United States and its allies were mistaken, "thanks to the Iraqis' nobility, strong faith in the justness of their cause, and their legendary steadfastness." The editorial describes the "Mother of Battles" as "the epic of the 20th century."

AL-THAWRAH newspaper, in a 1,500 word editorial on pages 1, 7, commends Iraq's performance during the Gulf crisis and war. The editorial begins by saying: "January 17, 1991 will continue to be remembered as the date on which the Arab nation's collective consciousness was born."

Celebrating this event, the paper says: "The annals of history have registered that Iraq, in terms of its leaders, will, human individual, faith, and role, is an unerasable fact of the age. For 100,000 air raids, which reflect the colonialist West's utmost evil potential, have failed to dent Iraq's standing or will. The three years that separate us from this event only clarify facts. For, the open and disgraceful subservience to the U.S.-Zionist camp by the Arabs of the desert has been consummated, whereas Iraq's continuing to uphold honor, pride, sovereignty, progress, and principles has become an indisputable fact.

"After three years of hard work, glory, honor, patience, steadfastness, and sacrifices, the Iraqis, who have upheld the message, stand firmer and continue to uphold right. Nothing of all that has happened has undermined the principles of right and honor. Nothing of that has dented the historicity of the leadership, nor its glorious and great positions.

"For the past three years, the Iraqis have confirmed to the whole universe that their progress, standing, and their credentials to the age of industry is not a product of their consumption of Western industries and expertise. For, Western bombs destroyed the Western industry assembled on Iraqi territory. However, the Iraqis have rebuilt and reconstructed their industries under the circumstances of a sweeping embargo to say that new Iraq, the Iraq of Saddam Husayn, is standing on its feet, that it is in good shape, and that the new Iraqi individual is the most important element Saddam Husayn has built on Iraqi territory. "

The editorial underscores Iraq's political discourse, saying that "all lies have collapsed, that all masks have been torn apart, and that the confrontation has melted all dyes, and removed all delusions."

The editorial also assails Iran's involvement in the Gulf war, saying that this shows that Iran's "medieval perspective is linked to the West's colonialist plan, which is targeting the pan-Arab renaissance plan spearheaded and epitomized by Iraq." The paper says that this indicates that Iran cannot harbor good intentions for the Arabs and Muslims.

Discussing the same topic in an approximately 900-word frontpage editorial on 16 January, Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that the "Mother of Battles has produced a new trend in the world that exposed the falsity of the "New World Order" promoted by Washington and the Zioniost quarters. The Mother of Battles has dealt a strong blow to Bush and his allies. It humiliated them and forced them to admit, secretly and in the open, that the Iraq of leader Saddam Husayn is a home to the knights and the mujahidin who have an unyielding will in both the battlefield and in the fields of work."

14-16 Jan Air 'Violations' Protested to Arab League

JN2001114594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1042 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (INA)—Iraq has once again protested to the Arab League over the continued violations of the Iraqi airspace by U.S., British, and French aircraft, which are provided with facilities by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. These violations pose a grave threat to Iraq's security, stability, and national unity.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid, Iraq's permanent envoy said on 14, 15, and 16 January, these aircraft continued their violations of the Iraqi airspace and conducted 129 hostile sorties by flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The Iraqi envoy asked that the letter be distributed to the Arab member states. A list detailing these violations was enclosed.

Radio Reports UNSC Review of Embargo Measures

JN1901131494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1220 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] It was announced at the UN Security Council [UNSC] last night that the UNSC held unofficial consultations and failed to agree that the conditions required for lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq have been met.

This decision was expected at this point in time. However, reliable diplomatic sources there have said that the next UNSC's review of the embargo, due to be held in March, will witness further positive developments, and that these developments will push for the lifting of the embargo imposed on Iraq.

A diplomatic source has explained to the Iraqi News Agency correspondent in New York that a reading of the positions of the UNSC members during yesterday's consultations strongly show a flexible British position, particularly since the speech delivered by the British representative to the United Nations during the UNSC consultations was free of any strong accusations or additional conditions.

The source added that there is evidence that the British position will be better during the next consultations the UNSC will hold in March, when the political stage will be set for the lifting of the sanctions.

Other sources said that the UNSC consultations have almost seen a consensus on the need to lift the sanctions. All UNSC members, except U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright, called for lifting the sanctions.

In a statement to reporters yesterday, French ambassador to the United Nations Jean-Bernard Merime affirmed that the French position on Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 has remained unchanged. He said Iraq's position on this paragraph should be the yardstick to be heeded for lifting the oil embargo imposed on Iraq. He added that things will be good when Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, and Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, submit their reports per Paragraph 22 of the aforementioned resolution, reports which could help lift the embargo.

Rolf Ekeus had informed a REUTER correspondent at the United Nations that he would leave for Baghdad early February for political talks with Iraqi officials. He added that his talks will focus on the overall developments pertaining to the dismantlement of the sanctions.

In his statement to reporters, French ambassador Merime has not denied that there are differences between France and the United States over the lifting of the Iraq sanctions.

Other diplomatic sources have said that the Spanish ambassador stressed, during the UNSC deliberations, the need for the UNSC decisions to be guided by Chapter VII of the UN Charter, and to be free of any political purposes. These sources noted that the Brazilian ambassador was more frank and clearer. In his speech, he affirmed that the UNSC and the Sanctions Committee must not act in a manner that harms the Iraqi people, or hurts their national economy.

The Brazilian ambassador affirmed that Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 is clear. He added: The UNSC must be firm in the implementation of its own resolutions, a firm implementation of which is demanded. Diplomatic sources said that this remark by the Brazilian ambassador was meant to reject the addition of any fresh conditions to the provisions enshrined in Paragraph 22 of the aforesaid resolution, which provides for lifting the embargo imposed on Iraqi exports, including oil, once Iraq implements the provisions 8-13 enshrined in Resolution 687, which address the weapons of mass destruction—the provisions which have actually been implemented.

The PRC ambassador strongly called for lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq and ending the Iraqis' suffering. He, along with the Russian, Nigerian, and Brazilian ambassadors, called for amending the traditional statement issued by the UNSC every 60 days so that it may note positive developments in the Iraqi position.

As for the speech delivered by the U.S. representative to the United Nations, it was a paper she received from Van der Stoel, a Netherland national, the so-called Human Rights Commission rapporteur, during a meeting they had in the Hague last week. This paper included a string of lies and falsehoods that characterized the U.S. position.

Radio London said that the UNSC consultations reflected differences among the UNSC members, adding that the French position was strongly favorable to Iraq.

Russia's Zhirinovskiy Praises Saddam, Urges Strong Ties

JN1901194294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Moscow, 19 Jan (INA)—Russian political, intellectual, social, and military personalities have stressed their absolute support for President Saddam Husayn's brave leadership. They described his excellency as a national leader of a new type and as the most courageous politician in the world.

In statements to an INA correspondent in Moscow, the Russian personalities hailed the Iraqi people and their unbending steadfastness at the historical battle, the Mother of Battles, and their support for their brave leadership. They said that the Iraqi leadership stands as a symbol of defiance that will continue to be recalled by all free people and all of mankind for many generations to come.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party and member of the Russian Federation's Parliament, hailed the unique, historic Iraqi leadership. He described President Saddam Husayn as a national leader of a new type and as the most courageous politician in the world in recent times.

He said that President Saddam Husayn represents a dauntless national leadership that defends the interests of its country and people. He said that, from this perspective, Saddam Husayn offers a model for how any national leadership should be in a world that the United States and hostile Western circles are trying to control.

He added that a leader who confronted the aggression of 30 states, led by the United States, deserves to be appreciated and respected. He indicated that the Iraqi leadership's wisdom and brilliant and successful management of the national economy despite the criminal blockade is unmistakable evidence that Iraq is a lofty, lively, and deep-rooted country. He said that had any other country in the world been subjected to such a blockade, it would have died a long time ago.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy stressed that the Liberal Democratic Party and the grass-roots Russian masses that supported it in the recent parliamentary elections constantly call for lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq. He said: We are continuing our consultations and efforts in this regard inside and outside the Parliament. During my recent European tour, I held numerous meetings with leaders of various parties and political and social organizations and discussed with them the need to lift the embargo against Iraq. He stressed the importance of escalating the international campaign to put an end to the crime that the United States and the evil powers are committing against the steadfast Iraqi people.

Gennadiy Zyoganov [name as received], leader of the Russian Communist Party and member of the Russian Federation's Parliament, called for the resumption of relations between Russia and Iraq, proceeding from the deep-rooted relations of friendship and cooperation that once existed between the two countries.

In statements to INA correspondent, he said: Time will not erase from the memory of our people years of extensive relations of cooperation and mutual benefit. Our people are certain that the black clouds darkening the skies of our country will disappear and that relations with Iraq will return to normal.

He added that the Russian Communist Party is looking forward to the day when difficulties are removed and when relations between Russia and Iraq are restored to normal for the interest of the two peoples and their progress and prosperity. [passage omitted]

UK MP Galloway Comments on Support for Baghdad

JN1901205894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2130 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Remarks by British MP George Galloway at a meeting between President Saddam Husayn and a delegation from the Athens International Conference on Solidarity With Iraq; in Baghdad on 18 January—recorded; in English, with a passage-by-passage translation into Arabic]

[Text] Your Excellency, Mr. President, I greet you, in the name of the many thousands of people in Britain, who stood against the tide and opposed the war and aggression against Iraq and continued to oppose the war by economic means which is aimed to strangle the life out of the great people of Iraq.

I greet you, too, in the name of the Palestinian people, amongst whom I've just spent two weeks in the occupied Palestinian territories. I can honestly tell you that there was not a single person to whom I told I was coming to Iraq and hoping to meet with yourself who did not wish me to convey their heartfelt, fraternal greetings and support. [Arabic translation reads: "convey their heartfelt greetings to your excellency and to Iraq."]

And this was true, especially at the base in the refugee camps of Jabalya, and Beach Camp in Gaza, in the Balatah Refugee Camp in Nabulus, and on the streets of the towns and villages in the occupied lands.

I thought the president would appreciate knowing that even today, three years after the war [Arabic translation reads: "after the aggression"], I still met families who were calling their newborn sons Saddam; and that two weeks ago, when I was trapped inside the Orient House, which is the Palestinian headquarters in al-Quds, with 5,000 [Arabic translation reads: "500"] armed mustwatinin [settlers] outside demonstrating, pledging to tear down the Palestinian flag from the flagpole, the hundreds [Arabic translation reads: "thousands"] of shabab [youths] inside the compound, were chanting that they wish to be with a DSh K [machine gun] in Baghdad to avenge the eyes of Abu-Jihad [Palestinian leader Khalil al-Wazir, killed in Tunisia]. And the Youth Club in Silwan, which is the one of the most resistant of all the villages around Jerusalem, asked me to ask the president's permission if they could enroll him as an honorary member of their club and to present him with this flag from holy Jerusalem.

I wish to say, Sir, that I believe that we are turning the tide in Europe, that the scale of the humanitarian disaster, which has been imposed upon the Iraqi people, is now becoming more and more widely known and accepted. [Arabic translation reads: "Sir, I believe I can say that we, in Europe, began to turn the tide. The disastrous destruction inflicted on you as a result of the aggressive attack to which you were exposed began to draw different feelings which are turning in your favor in Europe."]

Fifty-five British Members of Parliament opposed the war, but 125 [Arabic translation reads: "120"] are demanding the lifting of the embargo.

And this does not include the invisible section of the Conservative Party who must also been moving in that direction. And so, Edward Heath is being a very persuasive advocate inside his Conservative Party.

It is my belief that we must convey the very clear picture, that 1994 has to be the year of the ending of the embargo on Iraq. Otherwise, famine and all the awful consequences, including active despair by Iraqis, will be the result. And this is the message we must convey to civilized opinion in Europe.

So, I salute your courage, your strength, your indefatigability. And I want you to know that we are with you. Hatta al-nasr, hatta al-nasr, hatta al-quds [Until victory, until victory, until Jerusalem]. [applause]

Rabin Sees 1994 as 'Watershed' for Peace

TA1901171894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that Syria and the Palestinians are the key to achieving peace, whereas Jordan is incapable of signing a separate peace agreement. The prime minister is currently speaking at the Cinematheque in Tel Aviv. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] The prime minister said that 1994 will be a watershed. This year will determine whether the Middle East is headed toward peace, Rabin asserted. Prime Minister Rabin made several important statements here with regard to Syria. He revealed that the Americans have reached the conclusion that Syria is prepared to make peace according to the Egyptian model. Israel hopes to avoid repeating the Egyptian precedent, Rabin said, at least with regard to withdrawal from territories.

[Rabin] This government, on the basis of its election platform, is prepared to make a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights. Whoever says we lack a mandate to do so is simply talking nonsense. It appears in our platform; we said it out loud, despite the pain it entailed. I pray that we will be able to avoid repeating—and we will make absolutely every possible effort in this regard—the price we paid for peace with Egypt. I would like to say that in this regard, the Egyptian precedent—or the price we paid for peace with Egypt—is on the mind of every Arab leader. I have not still not received any definite sign that Syria accepts our definition of peace, and it goes without saying that we are far from accepting the full and painful price it is demanding in exchange for peace.

[Segal] Prime Minister Rabin said that his decisions on significant territorial concessions will be made on the basis of a national referendum. He refused to define at this time what he means by significant concessions. Prime Minister Rabin said that at present, he still does not know whether the fundamentals of a peace agreement can be worked out with Syria. Once he is confident that this is feasible, a law will have be passed on a national referendum so that the Israeli public can vote on the issue. With regard to Syria, Rabin said that when one refers to the Egyptian model of peace one is also speaking about the other aspects of that peace or, in other words, peace with normalization and security arrangements.

Rabin also addressed the Palestinian track and explained that no progress has been made in the current negotiations with the Palestinians. This, Rabin asserted, is because PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is still demanding the symbols of national sovereignty. Rabin reiterated Israel's demands with regard to the border crossings and the jurisdiction of the Jericho area. Rabin confirmed that agreement has not been reached on either the size of the Jericho area or on the issue of the border crossings. As for the Gaza Strip, Rabin said that he would feel no sense of loss if Israel handed the Gaza Strip over to the control of the Palestinian police. He also referred to the Gaza Strip in the context of Israel's negotiations with Egypt in the 1970's. Rabin said he does not remember the Egyptians ever asking for the Gaza Strip.

[Rabin] I do not remember the Egyptians ever demanding the return of the Gaza Strip in the course of the negotiations. I can tell you now, and not on the basis of some wild assessment, that if we were to offer the Gaza Strip to Egypt today, the Egyptians would tell us to go choke on it by ourselves.

[Segal] Rabin also alluded to Lebanon and Jordan. With regard to Jordan, the prime minister assessed that Amman will not sign a separate peace with Israel unless progress is made on the Syrian track. This is an important statement in the wake of the assessments made by Foreign Minister Peres and Foreign Ministry staffers that Jordan could indeed sign a separate peace agreement. As for Lebanon, Rabin said that country is obviously totally dependent on Syria. Thank God, Rabin said, that no one had sought to establish settlements there. [end recording]

Rabin Says Progress With Syria or 'Stalemate'

TA2001163994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has reiterated his disappointment with Syria's position and with remarks made by President al-Asad in Geneva.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 20 January, adds: "Rabin expected al-Asad to give a warmer expression to his desire for peace. The prime minister said he did not want President Clinton to answer in al-Asad's place when asked this question during the Geneva news conference."]

Mr. Rabin said that if we fail to reach an agreement with Syria this year the alternative will be political stalemate. Rabin made these remarks in a meeting of the Labor Party Bureau in Tel Aviv this afternoon. Mr. Rabin noted that Israel may agree to a Syrian demand to make progress with it conditional on simultaneous progress with Lebanon, but Israel will under no circumstances agree to any additional linkage.

Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that referring to the issue of a referendum, Mr. Rabin said that Hafiz al-Asad must convince the Israeli public—just as Egypt's al-Sadat did when he came to Jerusalem.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 20 January adds: "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this evening said he does not take the reports concerning al-Asad's severe health problems seriously. Mr. Peres said this is not the first time such reports concerning al-Asad's medical state have been aired, only to turn out to be baseless later. This was reported by our correspondent Sefi Hendler."]

Rabin Aide Reveals Referendum 8 Months in Planning

TA2001160694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Shim'on Sheves, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, revealed that a team under his supervision had begun examining the possibility of holding a national referendum eight months ago. Sheves dismissed all the reports claiming that the proposal had been made on the spur of the moment

Sources Say Clinton 'Knew in Advance' of Referendum

TA2001124894 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 20 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Excerpt] Political sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that President Clinton knew in advance that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin would decide on a referendum should a withdrawal from the Golan Heights be called for.

It appears that Rabin divulged this intention to Clinton during their last meeting in Washington. Rabin explained to Clinton the difficulties he would face in Israel should he have to undertake such a task. Therefore, the U.S. Administration was not surprised by the announcement on a referendum.

Government ministers say they will raise this issue during Sunday's cabinet session, because it is inconceivable that Rabin should divulge such a move to Clinton while hiding it from the government. At the same time, it is believed that at least one minister—Justice Minister David Liba'i, who has already asked for information on Swiss referendum laws—was apprised of the plan. [passage omitted]

Peres Departs for Oslo, To Meet With 'Arafat

TA2101081094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 21 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the disagreements between Israel and the PLO lie in the sphere of security, including control of border crossings, road security, and the size of security areas. Mr. Peres says that to bridge these gaps, Israel is prepared to view new proposals, provided they are in line with Israel's security concepts.

The foreign minister made these remarks to our political correspondent Shlomo Raz prior to his departure for Oslo, where he will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and PLO head Yasir 'Arafat and attend the funeral of Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst.

Peres: No Peace With Syria Without Concessions

TA1901200794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today addressed members of the Labor Party Ef'al circle. Mr. Peres stressed that no foreign army will cross the Jordan River, Jerusalem will not be divided, and the settlements in Judaea and Samaria will not be uprooted. Mr. Peres added, however, that peace with Syria cannot be attained without Israeli concessions.

Our party affairs correspondent reports Mr. Peres added that the Palestinians have nowhere to retreat to, whereas Israel is in no hurry and can shift the emphasis to the negotiations on Syria.

Further on Peres' Remarks

TA2001114194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jan 94 p A4

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] "The PLO thought that we had run out of steam, and it started to apply pressure, but we say: We have not run out of steam. Even if the negotiations take a few months, we will not change our minds. What we are telling the PLO is simple: We have put together a very original package for you. What we proposed in Oslo contained a territorial element which did not come up in the Washington talks. In Washington, discussions were held about principles, but principles alone cannot bring us to an accord. We are telling the Palestinians: We gave you a plan, and you must decide on the timetable. If you decide to slow down, we, too, will not be in a hurry. If you hurry, we, too, will hurry. For some reason, the Palestinians are under the impression that we cannot wait, that we have to finish the thing. We are in no rush." These remarks were made yesterday by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres during a meeting with Labor's Ef'al circle, which convened in Ramat Ef'al.

For over an hour, Peres replied to poignant questions posed by members of the Ef'al circle, which is seen as a hawkish Labor forum. It is headed by Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, and its activities are directed by reserves Major General Shay Erez, a former head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria. In reply to questions reflecting the circle members' anxieties and uncertainty with respect to the arrangement with the PLO and the future arrangement with Syria, Peres delivered an optimistic and visionary speech about a changing world and a new Middle East. "Not only has our region undergone a dramatic change, but the changes we anticipate will be even more dramatic than anything we have witnessed so far," Peres said. The real enemy threatening the Arab world is not Zionist but rather fundamentalist. "I do not think Labor's political adversary is the Likud; it lies within our midst. We are unable to sever ourselves from the past," Peres said, directing his barbs at the hawkish Labor forum members who are not entirely at ease with the government moves.

He maintained that the Gaza Strip arrangement will be nothing like the one in Judaea and Samaria and that the latter will not resemble the arrangement on the Golan Heights. "Netzarim does not resemble the 'Etzyon Bloc," Peres said. He added that the Sinai precedent does not have to dictate the Judaea and Samaria arrangement, because there was no Palestinian rule in Judaea and Samaria when Israel conquered the area and because of the problem of Jerusalem and the settlements. Peres refrained from stating explicitly that the peace arrangement with Syria calls for Israel to withdraw from all of the Golan, as his cabinet colleagues, Ministers Shulamit Aloni and Yosi Sarid, have said and his deputy, Yosi Beilin, has implied. "I see no point in starting the negotiations with Syria with offers of concessions on the Heights. I do not endorse the Syrian stand, but I do not intend to commit myself now to moves on which I may be unable to carry through. We are negotiating with Syria, not with ourselves," Peres said, stressing that any peace agreement with Syria will entail painful concessions. "We will have to choose between two conflicting aspirations: the desire to attain a peace agreement with Syria and the desire to hold on to all or most of the Golan. The question that will have to be answered is whether our unwillingness to give up the Golan may not force us to give up the peace agreement," Peres said. He did not voice his view on the referendum idea, and he was not asked about it.

Peres added that before reaching an agreement with Syria, the government will seek to attain an agreement with Jordan. In his opinion, the Gaza-Jericho First agreement will be completed in the course of 1994. We will attain peaceful relations (though not necessarily a formal peace agreement) with Jordan that will include, among other things, regional economic cooperation accords on issues such as projects along the Jordan River and in the 'Arava. Peres' list of arrangements anticipated in 1994 did not include a peace agreement with Syria.

The foreign minister attacked Meretz faction members, as well as Labor figures, "whose hatred for the ultra-Orthodox has pushed SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and Agudat Yisra'el to the right." In his opinion, the government will have difficulty reaching political resolutions without the religious-ultra-Orthodox bloc. "I know that I have been accused of staging the 'foul maneuver' [which toppled the government in March 1990], but what the ultra-Orthodox wanted—education budgets—was their legitimate due. We are not losing the religious public because of a budget but because some of us radiate contempt and hatred toward them." [passage omitted]

Peres: Referendum Will Not Tie Government's Hands

TA2001153994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that a national referendum on the Golan Heights would not prevent the government from reaching a decision on the issue, nor would it tie the government's hands in the negotiations. When asked whether or not he was in favor of a national referendum, Peres replied: We will decide at the appropriate time. I am not rejecting the idea out of hand. The foreign minister was speaking at Bet Berl during a ceremony in which scholarships were awarded to Jewish and Arab students.

Rabinovich: Next Talks With Syria 'Closed' to Media

TA2001211594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, the head of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations with Syria, said that the next round of talks scheduled to resume next week would be held behind closed doors and far away from the media. Ambassador Rabinovich also told reporters in Washington that a national referendum would force Syria to take Israeli public opinion into account because voters would not support any kind of withdrawal unless they were certain of getting real peace in exchange.

The message to the Syrians was that they would have to do more if they wanted Israeli society and Israel's political establishment to meet them half way, Itamar Rabinovich explained.

Minister on Possibility of Full Golan Withdrawal

TA2001191194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Outside the Labor Bureau meeting, Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, who is close to Rabin, said if al-Asad would do what the late Egyptian President al-Sadat did, 16 years ago, he might discover that Israel is willing to withdraw completely from the Golan Heights.

[Begin Ben-Eli'ezer recording] With all the problems that we had with Egypt, once President al-Sadat came to the parliament of Israel and made his declaration—once he stated: No more war.—I think he did 70 percent out of the problem [as heard]. He had convinced the Israeli people. If President al-Asad will do the same, maybe. He might be surprised and get maybe the same thing. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Knesset Member Views Withdrawal, Referendum

NC2001080594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Telephone interview with Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, in Jerusalem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Darawshah] Thank you my brother. Greetings to you and to everyone at the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Jundi] The ball is now in the Israeli court, and there is a proposal from Yitzhaq Rabin to hold a referendum among the Israeli people regarding withdrawal from the Golan Heights after reaching agreement with the Syrians. Could you inform us about the current viewpoint inside the Israeli Knesset and the Government?

[Darawshah] The summit between al-Asad and Clinton has greatly affected the political arena inside Israel, be it in government, the Knesset, or among the public. Everyone has become occupied with the meeting, especially President al-Asad's statements regarding his readiness to realize the peace of the brave—one that guarantees a just and comprehensive peace—and to fully normalize relations. In other words, full withdrawal in return for full peace. This is what the Israeli Government demanded previously. It claimed that the extent of an Israeli withdrawal corresponds to the depth of peace that Syria proposes. Clearly, President al-Asad has presented a wise proposal, one that stunned the world and gathered international support. But it has also caused some embarrassment to the Israeli Government and Yitzhaq Rabin. In the past two days, Rabin proposed something that we, as supporters of peace and people who want to boost the peace process, reject. Rabin proposed holding a popular referendum after agreeing on a draft agreement with Syria. In other words, the Syrian negotiators will sit at a table with the Israeli negotiators knowing beforehand that any agreement they reach must be approved by Israeli public opinion, which could change according to the prevailing atmosphere.

[Al-Jundi] So, this agreement between the government and Syria could change if the people reject it?

[Darawshah] Rabin stated that the agreement with Syria will lead to a big withdrawal from the Golan Heights. He did not specify its extent but said there will be a big withdrawal and sacrifice. So, such a step requires going back to the people for a referendum in which they will express their opinion. I believe this is stalling, a postponement, especially when viewed together with Israeli reaction to the joint statement and the Syrian president's stance, which was dry; it was not sufficiently expressive. We hoped Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres would have adopted a more flexible position showing greater acceptance of the Syrian stance announced by President al-Asad during his meeting with President Clinton.

[Al-Jundi] But some believe Rabin is trying to appease Israeli extremists and Jewish settlers in the Golan.

[Darawshah] It is, indeed, an attempt to calm the situation. But deep down, Rabin realizes that any peace agreement with Syria must lead to a full withdrawal of Israeli forces and settlers from the Syrian Golan. He knows it. I believe most Israelis realize that it is unavoidable. But given the opposition to such a step by the rightists, the settlers, the Likud, and other right-wing members of the Knesset, Rabin is trying to find ways to pacify opponents, such as the referendum proposition. But I believe Rabin knows full well that if he wants peace with Syria, he must pull out completely from the Golan and leave it to its motherland, Syria.

[Al-Jundi] Through your contacts with parliamentary blocs in the Israeli Knesset, how much support is there for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan?

[Darawshah] I believe that if the Knesset and the Israeli public in general are offered a draft agreement between Syria and Israel based on a complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces and settlers from the Golan in return for a full peace—including the exchange of ambassadors, economic cooperation, security arrangements, water agreement, and a peaceful strategy—the majority will support it. Rabin apparently realizes this but wants to pave the way through the referendum idea.

[Al-Jundi] I understand from this that for Rabin, it is only a matter of time and that the withdrawal will inevitably come.

[Darawshah] Rabin is known to be a cautious politician. He analyzes positions and moves slowly and gradually. He is doing this with the Palestinians now. He did it with the Jordanians. With Syria too, he wants to move gradually and prepare the public for difficult decisions. For the Israelis, withdrawal from the Golan is a difficult decision and Rabin knows it. So, he is preparing for this withdrawal through proposals, delays, and procrastination. But sooner or later, a full Israeli withdrawal from the Syrian Golan and from all occupied Arab territories is unavoidable. Rabin realizes that Syria is very important if the general Arab-Israeli conflict is to be solved.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you.

[Darawshah] You are welcome.

Spending on Golan To Continue at Same Level

TA1901204794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Studio report by economic correspondent Gil Tamari followed by Moti 'Eden video report]

[Excerpts] [Tamari] Golan Heights settlers have enjoyed massive government investments over the last few years. It appears that no harm was done to investments on the Golan Heights this year as well. Treasury officials this evening confirmed, albeit off the record, that investments will continue at the same level as before, although they will not include new projects. Our correspondent in the north, Moti 'Eden, reports on this issue:

[Begin 'Eden recording] The amount of funds to be invested on the Golan Heights this year will not fall from that invested last year. This includes tourism infrastructure, new factories, and the expansion of existing factories. Last year the state invested 100 million shekels for development purposes on the Golan. This included expanding the Qatzrin industrial zone and kibbutzim factories. The industrial output on the Golan in the same period was six times higher than the investment, namely $200 million. [passage omitted]

The government plans to invest the same sum of money which was invested last year on the Golan Heights, mainly in industry and tourism projects. [passage omitted]

Another special budgetary allocation which was not included in the 100 million shekels allocated to the Golan last year is 40 million shekels used by the Construction and Housing Ministry for renovating Golan Heights roads. [end recording]

Poll: 61 Percent Against Full Golan Withdrawal

TA2101112894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Jan 94 p 1

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute, directed by Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[Excerpt] How would you reply if a referendum was held today on the question: "Are you for or against **full** withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for full peace with Syria and appropriate security arrangements?"

For—37 percent; against—61 percent; no reply—2 percent.

How would you reply if the referendum question was: "Are you for or against **partial** withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for full peace with Syria and appropriate security arrangements?"

For—62 percent; against—36 percent; no reply—2 percent.

The poll, which was conducted on 19 and 20 January, included 565 interviewees constituting a representative sample of the entire adult Israeli population.

An analysis of the connection between voting patterns for the incumbent Knesset and on the referendum question on **full** withdrawal from the Golan Heights indicates that Labor supporters are almost equally divided between support for and opposition to full withdrawal.

However, the voting patterns of supporters of other parties in the Knesset ballot and the poll were obviously comparable, with only a minority "crossing the lines": For instance, only 12 percent of Likud followers support full withdrawal, and only 14 percent of Meretz followers oppose it. There is a similarly significant majority of full withdrawal opponents among the supporters of ultra-Orthodox parties (20 percent for withdrawal versus 80 percent against among Agudat Yisra'el supporters; 25 percent for and 75 percent against among SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] supporters).

With the introduction of the question on **partial** withdrawal, the trends change: Only 19 percent of Labor supporters are against it versus 80 percent in favor; partial withdrawal garners the support of 39 percent of Likud followers, some 50 percent of Tzomet and Moledet followers, and 44 percent of the National Religious Party followers.

The maximum margin of error in this poll is 4 percent. [passage omitted]

King Arrives in Washington on 'Working Visit'

JN2001155394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Yesterday evening, His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur arrived in Washington from Rochester. Their working visit to the United States is schdeuled to last for several days. During the visit, his majesty will meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

For the last two days, his majesty has been undergoing planned medical checkups at the Mayo Clinic, a famous medical center. The results of these checkups have proven that there are no signs of the disease [cancer]. His majesty underwent surgery to remove the disease approximately one and a half years ago.

His majesty has also undergone other medical checkups; the results of which have been reassuring and good. His majesty enjoys good health, God be praised. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Visit Termed 'Positive' Coordination

JN1901164294 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jan 94 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Al-Shar' Visit Enhances Arab Coordination"]

[Text] The Syrian foreign minister's visit to Jordan and his meeting with Crown Prince Hasan to brief him on the results of the al-Asad-Clinton summit is yet another practical, positive step toward enhancing and bolstering coordination and consultation between the two fraternal countries.

This is especially true since this visit comes at a time when His Majesty King Husayn is scheduled to visit Washington shortly and meet with President Clinton.

Jordan is satisfied with the results of the Clinton-al-Asad summit, especially since the U.S. Administration, as al-Shar' said, stresses comprehensive peace that is based on the Madrid conference, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the land-for-peace principle.

No doubt, His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Washington and his meeting with President Clinton will further bolster the success of the al-Asad-Clinton summit. King Husayn will talk to President Clinton in the name of the cordon states and the Arab nation to stress the constant Arab principles and Arab concern about a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace on all tracks.

It is common knowledge that Jordan has never accepted a division of the peace process or the conclusion of a separate treaty with Israel. Jordan regards the occupied Syrian, Palestinian, and Lebanese territories the same way it regards its own occupied territories. Israel should withdraw from all of these Arab territories, and the fraternal Palestinian people should regain their national rights.

The success of the al-Asad-Clinton summit will be enhanced and promoted after the Husayn-Clinton meeting, thanks to Arab coordination that is founded on credibility and sincere intentions that believe in the importance of a unified Arab position and insistence on regaining all Arab rights and territories on all tracks.

Therefore, all the cordon states should adhere to this successful, fruitful coordination which is based on mutual understanding and conviction to adhere to the resolutions of international legitimacy, the land-for-peace principle, and a comprehensive solution on all tracks.

Security Pact With Palestinians Detailed

JN2001125094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Jan 94 pp 1, 22

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] In activation of the economic agreement they signed on 7 January, the Jordanian and Palestinian sides have signed another agreement to reinforce and bolster ties of cooperation and coordination in the fields of security, territories, and borders.

This accord, which was signed at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry two days ago, acquires great importance, especially since it touches on one of the most sensitive issues within the framework of relations between countries; that is, the issue of security.

The Jordanian and Palestinian sides focused their concern on bolstering cooperation and coordination to serve the distinguished relations between the Jordanians and Palestinians at this historical stage in order to achieve the utmost level of security and stability for the two peoples.

AL-DUSTUR publishes the six points contained in the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on cooperation and coordination—which the committee on security, territories, and borders that stems from the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee reached after two days of continuous meetings. These points form the basis for joint coordination between the two sides. They are:

1. The two sides will exchange information and coordinate on the peace negotiations in order to reinforce and unify their negotiating stands on the bilateral and multilateral tracks.

2. The Jordanians will continue to assist the Palestinians to prepare and train cadres and members of the security forces in various specializations.

3. The two sides will cooperate and exchange information in all fields related to the work of the committee in order to serve their interests for the higher national interest.

4. The two sides will form two subcommittees: one for security and borders and the other for territories. They will also form any other committee necessary for coordination.

5. The two sides will define the appropriate mechanism for coordination between them in all fields and provide suitable means to achieve this at every stage.

6. The two sides will continue efforts to reinforce bilateral bonds of trust, brotherhood, and distinctive ties to serve their joint interests.

Agreement With Israel on Pollution Control Denied

JN2001212294 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 20 Jan 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Jordan denied that it had agreed with Israel on measures to control marine pollution in the Gulf of Aqaba. The head of Jordan's delegation to the environmental multilateral talks, Dr. Anis al-Mu'ashshir, said no such agreement was reached with Israel. He told "News at Ten" that there had been a decision by the environment multilateral meeting to establish three units in al- 'Aqabah, Elat, and Nuwaybi'.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the units will be established with the help of the European Union, and will combat oil spills and pollution as well as deal with emergency situations in the Gulf of Aqaba.

He said the Europeans will discuss the implementation of the decision with Jordan, Israel, and Egypt, but stressed that this was in no way an agreement with Israel.

Amman Reportedly Asks Iran To Reduce Embassy Staff

NC2001160994 Paris AFP in English 1426 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan 20 (AFP)—Jordan has asked Iran to cut back the number of its diplomatic staff in Amman, the newspaper KEYHAN reported Thursday [20 January]. The Foreign Ministry, quoted by KEYHAN, confirmed the report but said it had not received an official request. The paper said the request was made to the Iranian Embassy in the Jordanian capital.

A Jordanian diplomat in Tehran, contacted by KEYHAN, refused to confirm or deny the report.

Tehran broke ties in 1981 after Jordan supported its enemy Iraq in the 1980-1988 war. Iran opened its Amman embassy in March 1991, three months after the two countries restored diplomatic relations.

Banned Islamists Said Invited by Muslim Brothers

JN1901162594 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 18-24 Jan 94 p 3

[Text] The competent authorities have prevented two leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt—Counselor Muhammad Ma'mun al-Hudaybi and Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan—from entering Jordan. The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan had invited al-'Aryan and al-Hudaybi to visit Jordan.

AL-SABIL learned that the authorities did not give any convincing reasons for banning these two figures from entering the Kingdom. It is known that Counselor al-Hudaybi has visited Jordan several times, the last time was four months ago. Al-Hudaybi also led a delegation from the Islamic Movement in Egypt on a visit to Jordan in 1989 to meet with His Majesty King Husayn to congratulate him on the parliamentary elections.

Sources in the Islamic Movement in Jordan expressed deep regret and surprise at this step, which takes place at a time when our country is boasting about the democratic atmosphere and the openness prevailing in it. The Islamic sources said that there is no explanation for banning these two figures from entering Jordan at this particular time, particularly since such a measure would tarnish the image of our country whose doors have always been open for guests from all sisterly and friendly countries.

Muslim Brotherhood Condemns U.S. Rabbis' Visit

JN2001163194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Eighty reform rabbis from the United States concluded a visit to Jordan this evening. Rabbi (Amiel Hersh), head of the delegation, said that there were no meeting between the rabbis and Jordan's Prince Hasan, the regent. He indicated that a meeting had been scheduled.

A spokesman for Prince Hasan said that the Jordanian Embassy in Washington informed the rabbis delegation of the meeting without obtaining prior clarification from the Jordanian royal palace.

Meanwhile, the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan issued a statement today denouncing the delegation's visit to Jordan.

IDF Reports Air Attack Against 'Terrorist' Target

TA1901134694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] This afternoon, Israel Air Force jets attacked a terrorist target in al-Na'imah in south Lebanon. The target belonged to Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC].

An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said that the pilots reported accurate hits against the target. All our planes returned safely to base. The target that was hit served as a training base for the PFLP—GC.

Beirut Radio on Air Raid, Shelling

NC1901142894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] A military source has said that Israeli warplanes carried out an air raid on the al-Na'imah hills at 1430 today and that Lebanese Army antiaircraft guns stationed in the area confronted them. Our correspondent reports that an Israeli plane fired a missile at the headquarters of the Ahmad Jibril-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command in the al-Na'imah hills at 1430. The extent of the damage is not yet known.

Shortly before 1445 today, the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills came under artillery bombardment originating from the Israeli occupation forces' positions in Sujud, Bi'r Kallab, Mlita, and al-Luwayzah. The shelling coincided with raking by large-caliber machine guns.

A resistance group today carried out a machine-gun and rocket attack on the Sujud position, where the resistance and the occupation forces clashed for 10 minutes.

1 Killed in Air Raid

NC1901173694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Excerpts] At 1430 today Israeli military planes carried out a raid on the headquarters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] in the al-Na'imah hills. The Lebanese Army's ground resistance confronted the planes. The raid left one man dead and another wounded.

A Lebanese Army source told the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY that two Israeli planes flew over the al-Na'imah hills and fired a missile at the position. The source said that the Lebanese Army confronted the raiding planes with antiaircraft fire. [passage omitted]

A PFLP-GC spokesman told AFP that a PFLP-GC member was killed while on the way to the hospital and another was seriously injured in the raid. The spokesman pointed out that the raid targeted a clinic run by the PFLP-GC.

SLA Rakes, Israeli Helicopters Overfly Area

NC2001123394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] A 20-man foot patrol belonging to agent Lahd militiamen [South Lebanese Army, SLA] this morning advanced toward the Tallat Zaghlah post and the bank of earth that separates the liberated and occupied areas in the Mimis valley and raked the area indiscriminately for 90 minutes.

Israeli helicopters overflew the al-'Urqub hills and the Shab'a township from 0730 for one hour.

Israeli Forces Shell Areas in South

NC2001184594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] The occupation forces shelled the wooded areas surrounding their positions on al-Dabshah and al-Tuhrah hills with 82-mm mortars at 1745 today. This was followed by machine gun fire in the same area. An Israeli bulldozer was used to reinforce the al-Dabshah position with earth ramparts.

U.S. Gives Invitation for Washington Peace Talks

NC2001195994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Ministry Secretary General Zafir al-Hasan received from U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley today an invitation for Lebanon to attend the bilateral peace negotiations that will be resumed in Washington next week.

After the meeting, Hambley announced that the heads of the Arab and Israeli delegations will meet on 24 January to make preparations for a new round of talks. No specific date for the beginning of the talks has yet been set.

Hambley noted the positive atmosphere created by the U.S.-Syrian summit and said he hopes that progress will be made on the Syrian and Lebanese negotiating tracks.

In answer to a question, the U.S. ambassador said the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanese territory is one of the most important tenets of U.S. policy in Lebanon, which endorses the substance of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Envoy: Elements for Progress 'Available'

NC2101080594 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Jan 94

[Text] Head of the Lebanese delegation to the bilateral talks, Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, said on the eve of his departure for Washington that the elements for making progress in the peace talks are available this time. He expects the negotiations to be positive. In answer to a question, he said: We can only define our stance in light of the actual implementation of all points of agreement.

Buwayz on U.S.-Syria Talks, Israeli Withdrawal

NC2101111294 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 21 Jan 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, in Beirut, by Fayiz al-Miliji, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue from Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Miliji] Welcome to our program, minister.

[Buwayz] Thank you.

[Al-Miliji] Minister, a summit was recently held between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi. Would you tell us what went on in this summit?

[Buwayz] The summit was part of the continued coordination between the Lebanese and Syrian leaders. The summit followed on the heels of the [al-Asad-Clinton] summit in Geneva and, therefore, focused on the outcome of that summit and on a possible new approach to dealing with the situation.

We have discussed a number of issues brought up at the Clinton- al-Asad summit. We have also discussed the future of the negotiations that may take place in Washington early next month.

[Al-Miliji] During their summit did Presidents al-Asad and Clinton discuss south Lebanon?

[Buwayz] Of course, it seems that the issue of Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanese south was discussed in that meeting, for it is an integral part of the Arab-Israeli negotiations process.

There is no doubt that finding the best mechanism for achieving an Israeli withdrawal was among the topics discussed by Clinton and al-Asad. It seems that the Americans understand the need for an Israeli withdrawal as part of the peace process.

[Al-Miliji] Would this understanding lead to concrete measures?

[Buwayz] Of course, this understanding needs a certain mechanism to go with it. So far, Israel has not declared its intention to withdraw. Once it does so, we believe that the mechanism for implementing this withdrawal will be ready for discussion. The proposal to form a joint military committee without a statement of the goal of this committee, that is without a commitment to the principle of withdrawal, does not seem very logical to Lebanon. We want to know beforehand what the goal of the committee is. If the goal is to monitor the situation or contain the current security crisis, there is the Armistice Committee and we do not need to set up a new committee. If the goal is to disengage the forces, there is a multinational force in south Lebanon and, therefore, we do not need a new committee.

The only good reason for having such a committee is to discuss a timetable for Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon.

[Al-Miliji] The Lebanese received an invitation to participate in the coming round of Arab-Israeli talks. Has Lebanon received certain guarantees? Are there certain principles that will serve as the basis for the talks?

[Buwayz] There are no guarantees in the strict sense of the word. The Lebanese head of the negotiating team will go to Washington along with a number of the delegation members to hold talks with the U.S. side on the mechanism issue, or on the approach that will be adopted in this round of talks. Some general matters or tendencies have already been formed.

[Al-Miliji] What are these general matters or tendencies?

[Buwayz] For example, there is a real desire to hold serious talks to achieve peace.

[Al-Miliji] A desire on whose part?

[Buwayz] I think on the part of all sides.

[Al-Miliji] Including Israel?

[Buwayz] Well, this will be a test for the Israeli position and approach.

[Al-Miliji] This leads us to another question. What are the most important points of disagreement between the Lebanese and Israelis, in light of the past 12 rounds of talks?

[Buwayz] The main issue is withdrawal. So far, Israel has not given us a clear statement on its commitment to a withdrawal to the internationally recognized borders. What we keep hearing is rhetoric that Israel has no ambitions [on Lebanese soil]. Such rhetoric, however, falls short of a clear commitment to withdrawal. We want this commitment to be spelled out with a clear decision that would open the door to an agreement on the details.

[Al-Miliji] How about the issue of water?

[Buwayz] Concerning the issue of water, there is no room for negotiations. Lebanese water is non-negotiable.

[Al-Miliji] Concerning the South Lebanese Army, have the Lebanese and Israeli sides discussed any arrangements concerning the future of this army?

[Buwayz] No, we have not arrived at that point yet. I think that it is too early to look into this matter. Until a commitment is reached concerning the principle of withdrawal, it would be premature to discuss such details.

[Al-Miliji] President Clinton has met President al-Asad and will meet King Husayn. What effect will these negotiations have on the Lebanese track of the peace talks?

[Buwayz] We believe, and I have said this before, that peace should be comprehensive. Any progress on any track, if it furthers understanding, is a positive matter.

[Al-Miliji] My last question is: Are there any specific ideas that Lebanon is presenting ahead of the coming round of talks?

[Buwayz] Lebanon calls for the return of its land. Lebanon is not obliged to present more ideas. Lebanon, I reiterate, awaits a clear commitment concerning the principle of withdrawal. Once such a commitment is made, everything can be resolved.

[Al-Miliji] Thank you, minister.

[Buwayz] You are welcome.

Al-Hirawi, Officials Return From Damascus Meeting

NC1901182294 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz arrived at the B'abda Palace 10 minutes ago, following the conclusion of the Syrian-Lebanese summit meeting in Damascus. The men returned in al-Hariri's car, which he drove himself.

A meeting began in the B'abda Palace at 1705 between President al-Hirawi, al-Hariri, and Buwayz to assess the summit. Speaker Birri has returned to his home.

Parliament Mourns Death of Syrian President's Son

NC2101123494 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1218 GMT 21 Jan 94

[Unscheduled report]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we were told a few moments ago that Basil al-Asad, son of Syrian Arab leader Hafiz al-Asad, has been martyred in a regrettable road accident. The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies is mourning his death and has announced the postponement of its session and a five-day mourning period.

[Paris AFP in English at 1215 GMT on 21 Janaury adds: "The accident happened on the road to Damascus Airport."]

Al-Asad's Son Basil Killed in 'Tragic Accident'

JN2101135194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1320 GMT 21 Jan 94

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To the righteous soul will be said: O thou soul, in complete rest and satisfaction! Come back thou to Thy Lord, well-pleased thyself, and well-pleasing unto Him. Enter thou, then, among my devotees! Yea, enter thou my heaven! [Koranic verses]

With resignation to God's will, and with immense sorrow and sadness, President Hafiz al-Asad announces to the people the death of his lost one, which is a loss to the dear homeland, Staff Major and Engineer Paratrooper Basil al-Asad, who passed away on the morning of Friday, 10 Sha'ban 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 21 January 1994, as a result of a tragic accident. His pure body will be laid to rest in al-Qardahah after the noon prayers on Saturday 11 Sha'ban 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 22 January 1994.

From God we come and to Him we return.

Al-Shar', U.S. Congressmen Discuss Geneva Summit

JN2001140694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received a mixed Democratic and Republican Congressional team led by Mr. Tom Lantos. Dr. Majdi al-Jazzar, chief of the U.S. Desk, and the U.S. charges d'affaires in Damascus were present at the meeting. They reviewed the Geneva summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton and its impact on the chances for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. They also explored ways to bring about an improvement in relations between Syria and the United States.

Al-Asad Meeting With al-Hirawi Reported

JN1901192894 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] At 1145 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and Chief Lebanese Negotiator Suhayl Shammas.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, also attended the meeting.

People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi joined the meeting at a later time.

The talks dealt with the situation in the region, the peace process, the Geneva summit between Presidents al-Asad and Bill Clinton, and the prospects this summit has provided for the efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The president briefed the Lebanese side on his talks with President Clinton on the peace process and the need to advance it on all tracks, including the Lebanese track.

Al-Hirawi, Birri, and al-Hariri expressed great appreciation for the efforts President al-Asad exerted at the Geneva summit for the sake of a just and comprehensive peace, and to explain the principled Arab position that is in harmony with the international legitimacy. They also expressed Lebanon's thanks—from its president, government, and people—to President al-Asad for stressing Lebanon's right to liberate its occupied territories, and his call for implementing UN Security Council Resolution No. 425, since it is an indispensable basis for peace on the Lebanese track.

During the meeting, the conferees stressed the importance of the continuous cooperation, coordination, and consultation between the two fraternal countries during future stages of the peace process. The Syrian and Lebanese sides expressed their satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations.

The meeting was interrupted by a working lunch.

President al-Hirawi and the delegation accompanying him returned to Beirut today.

Pressure Urged on Israel To Join Peace Bandwagon

JN2001173694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Yitzhaq Rabin is once again harping on the referendum, stating he will go along with a mere territorial compromise in the Golan Heights, and instructing his chief delegate to the Washington talks to raise the issue of security guarantees. In the meantime, Shim'on Peres, his foreign minister, has threatned that unless the Palestinians accede to Israel's terms regarding the crossings and control of strategic points Israel will give priority to the Syrian track.

Thus, instead of responding to the clarion call for peace issued by the Geneva summit between al-Asad and Clinton, Israel once again embarks on prevarication, procrastination, and blackmail, and continues to deal with the Arabs from the standpoint of a brute force of occupation that turns up its nose to justice and international law and UN resolutions, conducting itself as if the Arabs are dying to pick up whatever crumbs of their occupied territory it will be prepared to cede. Such an attitude once more underscores Israel's determination to swallow up Arab territory and conclude separate deals that do not approximate the kind of true and dignified peace that the world wants and Bill Clinton endorsed at the historic Geneva summit.

The referendum in the Golan proposed by Rabin has amazed the world and the media, which interpreted it as an open maneuver to dodge the goals of a fair and comprehensive peace endorsed by the Geneva summit and full implementation of UN Security resolutions and the land-for-peace formula without prevarication or trickery. The Golan is occupied Syrian territory and the proposed referendum is an open transgression of international law and the Geneva Conventions and UN resolutions. An occupying power has no business holding a referendum on the fate of territory it cannot rightly claim. There are 100,000 displaced Syrian nationals waiting for peace to come so they can return to their homes. Rabin's proposal has surprised a world convinced that short of the entire Golan being handed back to Syria, Middle East peace remains an impossibility. The entire world community has acknowledged that without Syria, which holds the key to peace, peace in the region stands no chance. It is now obvious that the idea of Rabin's maneuver is to disrupt the peace process. By instructing his chief delegate to the Washington talks to raise Israel's security concerns, Rabin sends the ominous message that his government is working to derail the upcoming talks and take things back to the point where they stood before the Geneva summit. Israel is known to resort to security pretexts every time the prospect that the peace process may move forward appears on the horizon. This, when it goes without saying that no security guarantees should have precedence over peace itself. Syria has stated, through President al-Asad, that it is willing to conclude peace and set up normal relations in the region. Indeed, Syria, also through President al-Asad, has made a strong appeal for peace and urged the Israeli leaders to display courage and cast off the practice of prevarication and procrastination. All of which raises legitimate questions about Israel's peace credentials and strengthens a conviction that Israel's claims are nothing more than a temporary tactic to absorb the ire of an international community annoyed by a ceaseless Jewish settlement activity in the occupied land. The Oslo agreement example only goes to prove our point. Israel is still blackmailing the Palestinians and out to play the Arab parties off one against another.

Syria wants the kind of just, comprehensive, and dignifying peace on all the fronts that removes occupation and restores Arab rights. For Syria, there is nothing to choose between the Golan Heights and the West Bank, or any other occupied Arab territory, for that matter. Syria is not about to play Israel's games, nor will it give in to its blackmail. Against the background of the Geneva summit, Syria believes that the need has never been more pressing for the United Sates and the world community to get Israel to climb on the bandwagon of a fair and comprehensive peace.

Paper Rejects Proposed Israeli Plebiscite on Golan

JN2001085794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Jan 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The New Israeli Maneuver," TISHRIN writes: The secrets behind the Israeli proposal, which carries the fingerprints of Yitzhaq Rabin, to hold a plebiscite on the future of the Golan Heights are gradually coming to light. The proposal aims at allowing Israel to usurp part of the Golan Heights. This is totally rejected by Syria.

The paper explains that Syria though President al-Asad before and during the [Geneva] summit stressed that the Golan Heights will never be a subject of bargaining and that peace hinges on the return of the entire Syrian territory.

The paper stresses that Syria is not at all interested in the plebiscite and that the Israelis have no right to hold a plebiscite in an occupied Syrian territory. Such a measure marks a flagrant encroachment on international law and the charters and resolutions of the United Nations. Israel also has no right to use the law of the jungle to annul the facts of history and geography and the principles of international law. Regardless of how long it lasts, occupation will never annul Syria's sovereignty over its territory and the identity of the Golan Heights.

The paper explains that Israel is resorting to further intransigence and maneuvering by proposing the plebiscite. The paper notes that the Golan Heights belong to the Syrian people and not to the Zionist settlers. They are an inseparable part of Syria and, in all cases, the Golan Heights are not negotiable, and not a single Syrian will accept to relinquish an inch of them.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: The world welcomed the outcome of the Geneva summit and agreed on the positive, constructive Syrian role and Syria's complete response to the requirements of peace. Israel, in the meantime, is working on sabotaging what was achieved and at hindering the efforts in order to return the region to despair and bitterness. Only Israel should be blamed for this.

Afghanistan

Fighting in Kabul Continues Despite Cease-Fire

LD2101114294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jan 94

[Text] Fighting among rival groups in Kabul continued today despite a call by the Afghan Military Commanders Council for a cease-fire. Here is our colleague with a report on this.

[Unidentified correspondent, by telephone] It is reported that fighter planes belonging to General Dostam and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud appeared in the Kabul sky today and bombarded each other's positions.

During the past two days air attacks by warring forces have been very severe. While General Dostam's fighter planes have bombed the presidential palace and the Baghram military airport on several occasions, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's fighter planes have attacked several of his opponents' positions, including Charasyab, situated 25 km south of Kabul. According to reports the presidential palace has been severely damaged. Furthermore, yesterday's bombing of Charasyab caused great damage to the Afghan prime minister's television center. The Afghan Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] has, however, once again declared its neutrality concerning the current fighting in Kabul.

The secretary general of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] said yesterday: The current war—just like the other conflicts in the past 21 months—will not have a decisive effect in resolving the Afghan political problems. He added: The only way to resolve Afghan problems is to set up a neutral government in which the principal participants would be the four main political and military groups; that is, the Hezb-e Eslami, Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society], Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, and the Afghan National Islamic Movement. Abdolali Mazari said: Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami cooperates with the other members of the Afghan Supreme Cooperation Council solely from a political point of view.

Meanwhile reports coming from Jalalabad indicate that thousands of refugees from Kabul are stranded without any shelter in cold mountain areas between Jalalabad and the Pakistani border. Kabul hospital sources say that the fighting in the past three weeks has left hundreds dead and more than 8,000 injured.

Defense Ministry: No Agreement

BK2001113094 Hong Kong AFP in English 1112 GMT 20 Jan 94

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Jan 20 (AFP)—Afghan factions opposing Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani's rule mostly held their fire in war-torn Kabul Thursday [20 January], but Defence Ministry officials stressed there was yet no ceasefire agreement.

Limited small-arms fire was exchanged along the frontline and pro-Rabbani gunners fired the occasional rocket at rival forces.

The lull followed the announcement in Pakistan overnight by the anti-Rabbani front that it had decided to observe a ceasefire unilterally in response to a proposal from a mediation commission of mojahedin commanders.

The front linked its decision to what it called "guarantees" from the Kabul commanders that its demands, including Rabbani's resignation and installation of an interim government, would be implemented.

The announcement was issued from the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar by Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan], on behalf of the so-called Supreme Coordination Council of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan (SCCIRA).

The anti-Rabbani alliance threatened to resume fighting to deal a "final blow" if the president did not resign.

Ex-communist general Abdol Rashid Dostam's Junbish movement is part of SCCIRA along with the Hezb-e Eslami, the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) of former Afghan president Sebghatollah Mojaddedi and some other groups.

Defence Ministry officials acknowledged that a 45-man delegation of mojahedin commanders from the Kabul area had put forward an independent peace proposal.

Presidential spokesman Aziz Morad said the state concurs with the delegation's demands for a ceasefire and the removal of the armed groups from the capital but not the resignation of Rabbani.

Both Morad and Defence Ministry officials loyal to the president's military strongman Ahmad Shah Mas'ud said while rapproachement was possible with Hekmatyar, none was possible with Dostam.

Morad said the state was prepared to negotiate a ceasefire with Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami faction, but only on the condition that Hezb cut its ties with Dostam.

Dostam's forces launched an attack against Rabbani 20 days ago but failed to grab key posts in the capital and were pushed back to their Bala Hissar and Maranjan Hill strongholds, where they have been joined by Hezb-e Eslami.

The nearly three weeks of fierce rocket and artillery duels left hundreds dead and thousands injured, besides triggering a flood of refugees to safer areas.

"The state is ready to accept a ceasefire with Hezb, but no way with the militia and ex-communists," the presidential spokesman said.

"The militia must surrender their heavy weapons to the state, and their lives will be gauranteed, otherwise they will be smashed in their posts," Morad said.

The declaration of a "Jihad" or holy war against the militia is clear evidence that Rabbani is holding firm and will not bow to rival demands that he must resign.

"The people of Afghanistan are the only ones to decide on Rabbani's leadership as they elected him," Morad said, noting that as Rabbani, elected for two years in December 1992, he still had one year left to run.

In the downtown old bazar area of Kabul, which sits at the foot of Bala Hissar fortress, hundreds of residents took advantage of the de facto ceasefire and the sunny weather to flee with their possessions, transported mostly in carts hired especially for the job.

There was some looting of private houses and shops which had been badly damaged in the heavy bombardment between the rival factions.

Peace Linked to Rabbani Resignation

BK2001095994 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Jan 94 p 1,10

[Text] Peshawar, Jan 19: A group of 40-member Afghan commanders have presented an eight-point peace formula to bring an end to the 19 days battle for Kabul with first point regarding ceasefire to be effective from January 20.

The delegation of commanders, comprising representatives from each political force of Afghanistan, have initiated their peace efforts some two weeks ago to put an end to the ongoing blood bath in war battered Kabul. The commanders held a series of meetings and parleys with the warring factions, including President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Chief of HIA Golboddin Hekmatyar and discussed with them a number of proposals and suggestions to thrash out a viable and amicable solution to the decade long dispute. After thorough consultation and hectic meetings with combatants, the delegation of the commanders finally came out with an eight-point peace formula. First point being the permanent ceasefire, effective from January 20 from 6 am immediate stoppage of propaganda against each other. Other points included that warring factions would have to leave their positions by January 30 by handing it over to the commanders from Kabul province and finally, Kabul commanders would be responsible for the security of capital. All the combatant factions would abide by the peace plan.

According to AIP, a four-member delegation led by Hashmatullah Mujaddodi has arrived here Wednesday [19 Jan] which would hold negotiations with high-ranking officials of the Government of Pakistan besides meeting leaders of the Afghan political forces. A member of the delegation told AIP, that "we will not agree to any proposal or suggestion which do not provide assurance regarding resignation of President Rabbani", Prof Rabbani's resignation was a must for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan, he said.

Other members of the delegation included HIA (Hekmatyar's) Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal, Abdul Karim Zarn of Gen Rashid Dostum's party and Muhammad Rasul Talib of Hizbe Wahdat.

Meanwhile, the Hekmatyar led Supreme Coordination Council of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan issued a communique declaring its stand on the Kabul commanders' Shura.

Since the proposal of the Kabul Commanders' Shura is guaranteeing the declared demands of the coordination council, therefore, "we will observe the required ceasefire from 6.00 am in the morning of Thursday January 20. However, it (Coordination Council) is anxiously awaiting the implementation of the other points of the proposals of the commanders Shura. We commend the efforts of the Kabul Commanders' Shura with regard to the cessation of hostilities and clashes and the establishment of permanent and lasting peace. We are happy that the commanders by issuing their proposal have in fact scorned the claim for jihad of Rabbani and conversely have verified the rightful stand of the coordination Council".

The Coordination Council while agreeing to the spirit of the proposal of the Commanders Shura, emphasises the completion of the Commanders Council in a way which will ensure the participation of the Commanders of all parties and sides that have presence in Kabul.

The Coordination Council once again declares its rightful stand as follows:

1. That Rabbani has to resign unconditionally.

2. The formation of an interim government through a Shura representing all parties and sides of the confrontation.

3. The evacuation of all armed groups from Kabul.

4. Administration and security of Kabul be assigned to the commanders Shura. And the commanders Shura be the host of the proposed decision making Shura due to be called on February 4, 1994.

5. Holding of elections and the formation of national Islamic army.

Consequences of Communist-Islamic Victory Viewed

BR1901145294 Paris LE FIGARO in French 19 Jan 94 p 2

[Article by Daoud M. Mir, Afghan charge d'affaires in Paris and minister counsellor: "The Battle for Kabul"]

[Text] The battle for Kabul which is now being fought is no longer a simple manifestation of struggles among ethnic groups or factions: Instead it is an attempt to seize power by Babrak Karmal's former Communists and Golboddin Hekmatyar's extremists openly supported by Iran, Arab terrorists, and extreme nationalist circles in Moscow opposed to President Yeltsin.

Why this alliance of extremes and against whom is it really directed? The coalition which wants to overthrow President Rabbani brings together the losers of the end of the Cold War, former Communists and fanatics who have taken up the torch of the "anti-imperialist" struggle. This coalition is in step with the alliance of extreme nationalists and Communists which is developing in Russia. Today these extremists, convinced of the insurmountable opposition among cultures, tend to smile on Islamic radicalism in the Muslim world.

What is also new is Iran's direct intervention in Afghan affairs. Util now it was Pakistan, supported by private Saudi networks, which had tried to impose its favorite in Kabul and we condemned it for that. But Pakistani policy has now changed; similarly, the Saudi Government has made a clear break with the extremists. Unfortunately, these positive gestures did not mark the end of foreign interference: Iran openly supports General Dostam, former head of the Communist militia, and Golboddin Hekmatyar, head of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan], who have been shelling Kabul for 18 months, and Babrak Karmal who was placed in power by the 1979 Soviet invasion.

Why?

But why are the Iranians and the former Communists interested in Afghanistan? Do they want to turn it into a base for action against the moderate Muslim countries and Western interests in the world? The armed extremists of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], who are perpetrating one outrage after another in Algeria, were trained in Hekmatyar's camps; it is from these same camps that the armed groups now active in Azerbaijan come. It was immediately after President Rabbani's visit to Egypt that the decision to attempt a coup d'etat against him was made. The president was launching a rapprochement with the moderate Muslim countries and trying to build a stable, neutral, and moderate Afghanistan. After 15 years of jihad against the Communists, we do not need to prove our Muslim loyalty and we think that dialogue can be established between the Muslim world and the West: We are being made to pay for it.

Today, the defense forces under the command of Ahmad Shah Masud are the last bastion of peace in a tolerant Afghanistan. Many commanders from different ethnic groups have mobilized their troops to defend the state. So far the Wahdat Shi'ites have refused to bow to Iran's orders urging them to join the conflict.

A victory by the Communist-Islamic coalition would make Afghanistan an inviolable base for world terrorism, because who would envisage action against Kabul? That would enable Iran to pursue its policy of destabilization using others as intermediaries. The United States, which supported Hekmatyar until the last minute, is now losing interest in Afghanistan. But the specter of the Cold War is still there with its procession of dead and injured, and its destruction amid the snow and cold. We urge the European countries to condemn the attempted coup d'etat in Kabul before it is too late.

India

Possible Rao Visit to United States Examined

BK1901140894 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 11 Jan 94 p 12

[By M.K. Dhar]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 10—Though the United States and India both desire that a meeting between President Clinton and Prime Minister Rao is overdue, the expectation here is that the initiative for it must come from Washington.

U.S. officials, as well as the Indian Ambassador, Mr. S.S. Ray, have been talking about a Prime Ministerial visit to Washington for many months to strengthen bilateral relations, both in the economic and political spheres. The U.S. has to suggest the dates for Mr. Rao's visit to enable the officials to ascertain his convenience and also do the necessary preparatory work.

The External Affairs Ministry is keen that the visit should take place so that substantive discussions on matters of mutual interest can be held at the summit level. But the process can start only on receipt of a proper invitation setting out the dates. It feels that the policy pronouncements made by the State Department's South Asia Bureau need not be taken too seriously, particularly when their interpretation keeps changing often.

But the positive aspects of the relations between the world's two largest democracies ought to be stressed. The higher-level discussions on such issues as nonproliferation, Indo-Pak relations, human rights and South Asian security in general is overdue.

Even though the Clinton Administration's statements on human rights in Kashmir have evoked criticism here, the positive aspects of Indo-U.S. relations are not being overlooked in the face of Washington's repeated assertions about India's stability and territorial integrity. It is pointed out that U.S. investment in India has increased substantially and further expansion of economic cooperation is in the cards. Though the embargo on rocket-related technology is still in force, the U.S. has been unilaterally raising the technology export threshold, and items which India could not obtain earlier from the U.S. are now readily available.

The U.S. has also sent many positive signals to reinforce its desire to establish an active and wide-ranging relationship with India. Even with regard to Kashmir, the U.S. no longer talks of mediation. As the State Department has made it clear, "we do not set ourselves in a mediator's role."

However, the Indian Government would like the U.S. to take note of the extreme sensitivity of public opinion here over the Kashmir issue. Almost the entire opposition in Parliament has urged the Government to lodge a formal protest over President Clinton's letter to the head of Pakistan-sponsored Kashmir American Council, Ghulam Nabi Fai, who supports militancy, and to underline America's partisan attitude.

Even in the face of highly controversial statements emanating from Washington, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has been playing it cool as he believes that one need not feel either euphoric or frustrated about the ups and downs in Indo-U.S. relations. Both sides, he feels, should make a serious assessment of their interests and the advantages of not only continuing, but also further strengthening this relationship.

The last Indo-U.S. dialogue took place in September 1993 when the Foreign Secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, visited Washington. The subject covered global and regional developments, as well as, recent initiatives on issues such as a comprehensive test-ban treaty and cut-off of fissile-material production for weapons purposes. Other issues of interest also figured and both sides reiterated a desire to examine initiatives to enhance security through process of confidence-building.

Since then the only worthwhile interaction took place when Ambassador Ray met U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The meeting was largely unproductive and did not help to bridge the differences between the two countries on various issues. India's concern over the move to repeal the Pressler Amendment, which would enable resumption of arms aid to Pakistan has been duly conveyed to Washington. It has been expressly stated that feverish arming of Pakistan would disturb the security balance in the subcontinent and force India to spend more on buying arms to safeguard its security, at the cost of development.

The assertions that the U.S. is not pursuing an activist role with regard to Kashmir is, in India's view, not borne out by the recent policy pronouncements which tend to suggest that Indo-U.S. relations may face a prolonged cold spell.

According to official sources, the linkage between terrorism in Kashmir and Pakistan's clamour over human rights violations, supported by the U.S., is a dangerous trend. However much the U.S. may desire peaceful relations being established between India and Pakistan and resolution of the Kashmir issue, even tacit support for terrorist activities in the Valley is likely to come in the way of forging closer relationship between India and U.S.

On the positive side, it is pointed out that India has agreed to negotiate with Pakistan the Kashmir issue, and offered to host the next foreign secretaries' level meeting in four months in New Delhi. India is also sending a package of six proposals, including on the deployment of forces in the Siachen area, about which the U.S. is keen, and additional confidence-building measures, to Islamabad in four to six weeks if it is in a mood to give serious thought to it.

On the non-proliferation issue, the U.S. now understands India's reluctance to sign the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] and has agreed to continue the dialogue. India is supportive of a comprehensive test-ban treaty and also moves to prevent export of weapons-grade fissile material. The differences over GATT negotiations have been fully resolved.

During the current year Indo-U.S. relations will get high priority in India's foreign policy projections. Minus the irritants from Washington, New Delhi is keen on strengthening Indo-U.S. relations within the framework of shared interests on narrowing differences where they exist, and extending cooperation in a substantive manner in areas of mutual benefit.

Diversification in Defense Production Stressed

BK1901162694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] The prime minister has stressed on diversification by the defense public sector undertakings without, in any way, impairing their primary role of serving the country's armed forces. Addressing the members of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to the Defense Ministry in New Delhi, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao said the motivation for diversification in defense production units does not mean any reduction in defense production, but aims at increasing their turnover and exposing them to commercial culture. It was disclosed in the meeting that as part of the diversification drive during 1993-94, 22 percent of the sales of the ordnance factories are expected to be to nondefense customers.

The chief of the Army Staff, General B.C. Joshi, informed the committee of the Army's decision to induct the indigenous main battle tank Arjun in its fold. Expressing full faith in the capability of the tank, General Joshi said it meets all the requirements of the Army.

Official Outlines Future Nuclear Program

BK2001135594 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 11 Jan 94 p 2

[All figures as published]

[Text] Bangalore—India will continue to develop its nuclear energy programme, especially in the field of fast breeder reactors in the overall interest of development and improving the quality of life of the citizenry Atomic Energy Commission Chairman R. Chidambaram asserted here on Monday [10 Jan].

Inaugurating a four-week residential course on "An integrated approach to knowledge, and information" at the National Institute of Advanced Studies. Chidambaram pointed out that there were many dimensions to nuclear energy, the generation of electricity being only one facet of the country's nuclear programme.

Over the years the spin-off from nuclear research had enriched industry, helped medical sciences and boosted agriculture. BARC [Bhaba Atomic Research Center] for example had played a vital role in the agriculture sector by creating new pulse varieties. In Maharashtra farmers who cultivated BARC-developed pulse varieties 31000 hectares in 1989 had been so impressed with the yield that they increased their sowing area to 2,00,000 hectares by 1993.

He said nuclear energy would be increasingly used in the country in the 21st century as conservationists were up in arms against mega hydel projects and the heavily polluting thermal projects.

Chidambaram pointed out that efforts were on to make use of India's vast reserves of thorium which were five times more that the uranium reserves. "Our pressurised heavy water reactors use uranium, hence work is on to make greater use of thorium. At Kakrappa, in Gujara we have made a beginning. But much more needs to be done," he said.

Chidambaram said that India's safety record in the running of its nuclear power plants had been very good. "The truth is that the dangers of radiation are more pronounced at radiology departments and at X-ray units where proper precautions are not taken. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board was studying ways and means to reduce the danger posed to patients, he said.

Later, participating in the Foundation Day celebration of the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) he called upon the scientists to make use of the synergistic strengths of various research organisations across the country to contribute to the growth and development of the nation.

Iran

Tehran Summons Swiss Envoy Over Allegations

LD1901181694 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—Swiss Ambassador, Radolf Weier Smuller was summoned to the Foreign Ministry here Wednedsay and sounded a strong protest at the recent allegations of Swiss officials against Iran.

Swiss police and the Justice Ministry has alleged Iranian involvement in some terrorist acts.

'Unfriendly Attitude' Denounced

LD2101093394 Bern Swiss Radio International in English 0900 GMT 21 Jan 94

[Text] Iran has denounced what it calls Switzerland's unfriendly attitude following a series of disputes which have soured relations between the two countries.

The Iranian ambassador in Bern, Mohammad Reza Alborzi, said his Swiss counterpart in Tehran was summoned to the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Wednesday [19 January] to explain Switzerland's position.

The ambassador was speaking after the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation suspended a cooperation agreement with Iranian Television. The move follows reports that Iranian Television was used as a front by people involved in the assassination three years ago of a former Iranian prime minister, Shahpur Bakhtiyar.

Details of Amphibious Maneuvers in Persian Gulf

LD1901212794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] We continue the news with a report by our correspondent on the continuing amphibious exercise in the waters of the Persian Gulf:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The fourth and fifth phases of the regional amphibious exercise [codenamed] Martyr Reysali Delvari in the Persian Gulf waters have ended successfully. In this phase [as heard] of the exercise, which is taking place in six stages with the participation of units from the Second Marine Region of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], and airborne units of the Second Marine Region of the navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the area between Bandar-e Dayer and Kharg Island, active units used dozens of vessels, speed boats, and helicopters, and carried out successful beach support fire operations; extensive amphibious attack operations; chemical attack operations by the imaginary enemy; defensive chemical, bacteriological, and radiation [warfare] operations; stationing forces in the Sar-e Pol region and firing at the flares of the imaginary enemy [as heard]; boarding of personnel onto personnel carriers; and night time and transit sea-going operations [as heard].

The Martyr Reysali Delvari amphibious operation started two days ago and will continue tomorrow. [end recording]

Rafsanjani, IRIB Head View Media Role, Prospects

LD2001130094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] Today President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received the news editors of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Stressing the role of the media, especially radio and television, in informing and enlightening society and maintaining the people's presence and involvement in the fields of reconstruction, he said: Broadcasting the facts about our Islamic society by the mass media encourages our people and instils despair in the enemies and opponents of the Islamic revolution.

Referring to the negative propaganda of our enemies against the Islamic system, the president said: The enemies of the Islamic Republic by making use of their propaganda media have always tried to portray the ability of the revolution in reconstruction and the administration of the affairs of society as weak and inadequate. However, the facts of the past few years and the important steps which have been taken in reconstruction and in the comprehensive development of the country have demonstrated that the enemies have been defeated in this battle too.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the truthfulness, reliability, interest, and realism of the media as the reasons for winning the trust of the people. Emphasizing the need for maintaining and strengthening this important asset, he said: The Voice and Vision as the greatest publicity media, through necessary vigilance and understanding and timely and correct analysis of the special tricks and policies of the enemies, should choose the appropriate methods for confronting all this hostile propaganda. Thus, while it carries out its mission to inform the public it will also establish a close relationship with the people.

Expressing his satisfaction with the achievements and valuable services of the Voice and Vision at different junctures of the Islamic revolution, especially its role in maintaining the preparedness, steadfastness, enthusiasm, and mobilization of society during the period of holy defense [Iran-Iraq war], the president said: It is expected that, by making use of all its publicity capabilities and facilities and its artistic creativity, the Voice and Vision will encourage the people to greater participation in the work of reconstruction and will reflect the positive results of all their efforts and achievements.

Referring to the implementation of the government's major infrastructural plans in industrial, agricultural, development, and cultural fields and the severance of ties of dependence in many of those sectors, the president stated: To date, many important and basic projects in the country, including the construction of the biggest dams, power generators, refineries, silos, huge oil and gas platforms, and bridges, the development of the communication industries and transportation, the provision of gas to towns and villages, the manufacturing of petrochemical products, the provision of raw materials for many domestic industries, the discovery and exploitation of mines, and hundreds of other development projects have been implemented by our own committed experts and capable local human resources.

He stressed that the mass media, including the Voice and Vision, have a major role in reporting these activities to society and should make greater efforts in this field.

The president referred to the particularly distinguished status of the Islamic revolution in the world, and said: Historical experiences have proved that safeguarding the revolution is much more difficult than the achievement of its initial triumph. In Iran the movement of the masses around the axis of the leadership of the late imam, and the special virtues of our people, not only made victory in military and political wars possible, but also put the country on the right economic course toward comprehensive growth and development.

The president added: Constructive moves by the government in economic spheres and success in making up for earlier underdevelopment and in repairing the damage caused by the imposed war [with Iraq], constitute issues which have forced the enemies to revise their attitudes and viewpoints towards the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to a report by a Central News Unit correspondent, at the beginning of this meeting Mohammad Hashemi, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting organization [IRIB] presented a report and announced: At present, in addition to broadcasting 40 hours per day of domestic and foreign political, cultural, economic, and scientific news, the IRIB has an external service which broadcasts across the globe in 19 different languages.

The IRIB head said: Due to possession of an expert workforce with an interest in the Islamic system, the IRIB is at present in a very good condition, in that it now plays an active role in the global information system arena. He then referred to the operation of the third television network and the radio news station, as well as new efforts underway to make IRIB programs more varied. He added: With our current active workforce, we are also ready to establish a television news network.

Central Asia, Caucaus Seminar Held in Tehran

NC2001094694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Jan 94

[Text] This week a two-day seminar devoted to studying the development process in Central Asia and the Caucasus was held in Tehran, during which regional and international experts from 17 countries discussed the reasons for and obstacles to development in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Qoroqi, one of our political correspondents, has prepared the following report on the development process in the Central Asian republics and the Caucasus:

[Begin recording] [Qoroqi] Economic development in the republics of Central Asian and the Caucasus cannot be a phenomenon that is independent from the multifaceted socio-political-security aspects in these countries. The obstacles to these republics' development are linked with their past. Contrasts between the way the people and the government feel about the implementation of economic projects, as well as cash-flow shortages are among the main obstacles to development in these republics.

(Formin), a specialist on regional affairs from Russia talked about the obstacles to development in Central Asia and Iran's role in the development of these countries:

[Formin, in English with superimposed translation into Persian] Obstacles to the industrial and economic development of Central Asian countries are extremely extensive and diverse. The most significant of these obstacles is the economic instability in these republics and the complete dominance over these industries by the Russians. Because of their strong dependence on Russia for technological know-how, these countries are not able to sever their economic relations with Russia. The Islamic Republic of Iran's economic cooperation with these countries is of special importance to them because to them Iran is like a window to the free world through which they can expand their relations with the world.

[Qoroqi] Kazem Sajjadpur, a professor at the International Relations College, also commented on the same topic and said:

[Sajjadpur] Generally speaking, the unspecified nature of the security situation in these countries on all levels—on the individual, national, and regional levels—is the biggest obstacle to development. In addition, there is the economic element and the fact that their economic systems are extremely dependent on Moscow because of the former economic structure, which cannot be easily changed. At any rate, we should also view matters from a positive perspective too—there is some interest in solving security problems and in moving toward development in these areas. In other words, it is not a matter of obstacles only. There is also an interest in solving these problems. [end recording]

Turkmenistan Ambassador on Bilateral Ties

NC2001214594 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Jan 94 p 7

["Exclusive" interview with Turkmenistan Ambassador to Iran Imangeldi Bayramov by unidentified KEYHAN correspondent in Tehran "on the occasion of the visit by the Turkmenistan president to Iran"]

[Text] [KEYHAN] In view of the visit by Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov to Iran [2 January], what is your assessment of this visit and what will the focus of the talks between the two countries be?

[Bayramov] Relations between Iran and Turkmenistan are broadening day by day and this is a source of much pleasure to us. As you are aware, last October the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, visited Turkmenistan and the officials of the two countries discussed numerous issues. The visit by President Niyazov is a follow-up to the agreements reached during that visit and it is being viewed as extremely important. President Niyazov is scheduled to visit Esfahan, Shiraz, Kish, Gonbad-e Kavus in addition to Tehran.

We believe this will be an opportunity for the Turkmen President to view the economic issues and capabilities of Iran at close quarters and this would benefit both countries.

I have just taken over this assignment and now that I am in close contact with Iran I feel that the understanding between the officials of the two sides is much stronger. In my opinion, both countries are keen on the progress of their respective countries and nations. The former Soviet Union kept the Iranian and Turkmen nations segregated for a long time but after independence, the two countries have become closer to one another and this is a source of much pride and joy to us. The fact that the Iranian officials express their affection for us and consider us a friendly fraternal country gives us immense happiness.

[KEYHAN] What is the level of economic and commercial ties between Iran and Turkmenistan?

[Bayramov] At present Iran has some centers for the sale of its goods in Turkmenistan, which has been warmly welcomed by the Turkmen people. These centers will be expanded in the future. Of course, we are not going to content ourselves with trade only. It has been decided that factories will be jointly set up by the two countries in Turkmenistan with Iranian and Turkish investment. Products from these factories will be for domestic consumption as well as for export by Turkmenistan.

The relevant ministers regularly exchange visits and study the conditions and feasibility of the projects. For example, Turkmenistan has very rich mines that yield construction stones and Iran is able to set up factories to polish these stones and to prepare them for decorative use.

These stones can be used in Turkmenistan and can be valuable exports as well. Numerous other factories will be set up in Turkmenistan and Iran will provide the technology and machinery for these factories.

At present the Tejen-Sarakhs railroad is under construction and is a joint project. Agreements on other projects are expected to be signed between the two sides during the course of President Niyazov's visit. In our opinion the agreements of the two countries that are on paper are not of consequence but it is the follow-up and practical measures that will be implemented.

[KEYHAN] In view of the travels of citizens of the two countries, what measures have been envisaged by the Turkmenistan Government for providing facilities for Iranian passengers?

[Bayramov] We respect passengers who come to our country with noble ideas and objectives and we believe in providing them with all possible facilities. If their objectives can prove effective and beneficial for the interests of the two countries, such as setting up factories, or for trade and so on, we welcome them especially. Our country is still young but wishes to have relations with all countries. I stress that if one does not interfere in our internal affairs, one is free to travel to our country.

The majority of the Iranians travelling to Turkmenistan have sincere and noble intentions and only come to get acquainted with our country and to meet their relatives. Others come to set up factories and for business purposes and we welcome them wholeheartedly.

[KEYHAN] What steps have been taken to abolish visa restrictions between the two countries?

[Bayramov] Talks are in progress on the subject and visa requirements will be waived.

[KEYHAN] What is the nature of the relations between Turkmenistan and the Western countries?

[Bayramov] As I said earlier, Turkmenistan's border is open to every country. We will enter no political bloc. We want to have reciprocal relations with every country, just as we have with Iran. Numerous political and economic delegations regularly visit Turkmenistan from France, Germany, Canada, the United States, Italy, Argentina, and Japan. We are not a closed country. Relations with these countries have led to some valuable industrial and economic agreements. We grasp the hand of every country that comes to us with noble and pure intentions.

[KEYHAN] Have your warm and close relations with Iran affected your relations with other countries?

[Bayramov] No country has the right to interfere in this issue. Similarly, no country can question why we have close relations with, say, Iran. This has had no impact on our relations with other countries.

[KEYHAN] Do you have relations with Saudi Arabia and Israel as well?

[Bayramov] We have no embassy in Israel. As I stated earlier, if a country comes with noble intentions and with plans and projects to benefit both sides, we will study them on condition that their intentions are sincere and positive. We have relations with Saudi Arabia but we have no embassy there yet.

[KEYHAN] What kind of economic and cultural relations do you have with Turkey?

[Bayramov] As with Iran, we have cordial fraternal relations with Turkey. We have set up factories with Turkey's collaboration and we have bilateral commercial relations. Our students study at cultural and university centers in Turkey.

[KEYHAN] Do you have any particular pattern in mind for the political administration of your country?

[Bayramov] We copy no country's system. We are independent and we have our own distinct national policy. We do not emulate the model of any particular country. From every country with which we have relations, we adapt things as we see fit to the conditions in our country.

[KEYHAN] Since Turkmenistan joined organizations such as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Caspian Sea Organization after becoming independent, how do you see the future of such cooperation?

[Bayramov] We attach immense importance to regional cooperation, especially economically. Such cooperation certainly benefits all regional countries. If we can get gas to transit through Iran and export it to the world, it will benefit everyone, including Iran. If we expand the communication routes among regional countries, it would certainly benefit them all. If the Turkmen railroad is extended to join Iran's, we can link ourselves with Pakistan, Turkey, and Afghanistan. We believe that organizations for regional cooperation such as the ECO and the Caspian Sea Organization will bring immense benefits to the newly independent countries such as Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

[KEYHAN] How are your relations with Russia? To what extent has economic and cultural dependence on Moscow been eliminated?

[Bayramov] We do not depend on Russia. We have not severed our links with it; we have cordial economic and commercial relations with all the newly independent countries of the former Soviet Union. But we cannot tell Russia what to do and they cannot tell us either. It makes no difference to us whether a country is big or small. We may feel overwhelmed by larger countries in the same way that we feel no sense that smaller countries are great.

[KEYHAN] What is your opinion of the political adversity in Tajikistan? Does it have any fallout effect on your country?

[Bayramov] In our opinion, events in Tajikistan are a purely internal affair and no country has the right to interfere. We believe the Tajiks should solve their problems themselves.

Hizballah of Iraq Congress Opens in Tehran

LD2001121594 Tehran IRNA in English 1124 Griffin

[Text] Tehran, Jan 20, IRNA—The fourth congress of Hizballah of Iraq opened here Thursday on the fourth martyrdom anniversary of Iraq's prominent clergyman Hojatoleslam Mahdi Hakim.

The congress is attended by a number of distinguished Iraqi political and religious figures who are to assess the present situation in Iraq and ways to help the Iraqi people.

Addressing the session, head of the congress Shaykh Asad Silli, said that the objective is to discuss the latest developments in Iraq, propose ways of consolidating ranks of the Iraqi opposition and mobilize all resources to support the Iraqi oppressed people.

Pakistan

President Returns From Visit to Saudi Arabia

BK1901145494 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] The president, Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, returned to Islamabad this evening after a four-day visit to Saudi Arabia. Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto received the president at the airport. Mr. Asif Ali Zardari and principal adviser to the Punjab chief minister Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat were also present. During his stay in Saudi Arabia, the president performed umrah [minor pilgrimage] and held talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on a wide range of issues.

In an airport statement before his departure from al-Madina al-Munawwarah, President Farooq Leghari said that during the talks with King Fahd the most important issues which came under discussion were recent developments in Indian-occupied Kashmir, situation in Afghanistan, and the plight of the Bosnian Muslims. He said he apprised King Fahd about the latest developments in South Asia and Pakistan's efforts to contain the explosive situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the face of brutal repression in the valley.

He said he also informed King Fahd that Pakistan had accepted the Indian offer of talks at the foreign secretary's level in good faith and hopes that India would engage in a meaningful dialogue for resolving Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and the Simla Agreement. However, he added, for further dialogue it is essential for India to create the right conditions and to desist from the policy of repression in the Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir. He said he also informed King Fahd that Pakistan had accepted the Indian offer of talks at the foreign secretary's level in good faith and hoped that India would engage in a meaningful dialogue for resolving Kashmir issue in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. [sentence as heard]

The president said it is a matter of great satisfaction to us that King Fahd showed understanding and support for

Pakistan's point of view on Kashmir, which is based on international obligations devolving on both India and Pakistan.

Minister Returns From Central Asian Tour

BK1601105194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayeb has accepted a mediatory role in resolving the Kashmir dispute as proposed by Pakistan. This was stated by Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali while addressing a news conference in Islamabad yesterday on his return from a week-long visit to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. The foreign minister said he briefed leaders of the three republics on different aspects of the Kashmir dispute, especially the grave human rights violation in occupied Kashmir. Sardar Asif Ali said he discussed the situation arising out of the Afghanistan hostilities with the leaders of the three republics. The leaders of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan expressed grave concern about the Kashmir situation and expressed full support for Pakistan's efforts for peace in Afghanistan.

The foreign minister said he held detailed talks with these leaders on the possibility of connecting road and rail links via Afghanistan. He said Uzbekistan has decided to build a road from [name indistinct] to Temrez and wants to extend this road to Quetta via Herat and Qandahar. Uzbekistan has also decided to utilize Pakistan's credit of $30 million and expressed its willingness to cooperate in anti-narcotics and anti-smuggling measures. Sardar Asif Ali said Pakistan has decided to respond positively to Turkmenistan's request for cooperation with defense issues. Pakistan has also extended $10 million in credit to Kazakhstan, for which Nazarbayev expressed his thanks to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Spokesman 'Informal' Papers Handed to India

BK1901162294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 19 Jan 94

[Text] Pakistan has handed over two informal papers to the Indian high commissioner in Islamabad containing ideas and proposals to take measures required for solution of Jammu and Kashmir problem and other issues. These papers have also been given by the Pakistani high commissioner in New Delhi to the Indian foreign secretary. One of the informal papers comprised modalities for holding a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir. He [as heard] said Pakistan—with a view to extending informal ideas and proposals in developing future useful discussion on Jammu and Kashmir problem—has sent these informal papers to India.

Replying to a question, the spokesman made it clear that giving informal papers does not mean that Pakistan has proposed any schedule for next round of Pakistan-India talks.

Indian Proposal on Kashmir Border Reviewed

BK1801133394 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 18 Jan 94 p 10

[Editorial: "The Proposal To Deploy UN Forces Along the Line of Control"]

[Text] Citing Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan, the Indian English daily THE HINDU writes that Pakistan has expressed cautious reaction over an Indian proposal to convert the Line of Control [LOC] in Jammu and Kashmir into a line of peace and tranquility and has given the impression that Pakistan will be glad to hold direct talks, if this proposal reflects India's intention to reduce the forces deployed on the LOC. But, if India wants Pakistan to accept the current situation in Kashmir as it is, Pakistan is not ready for it.

Whenever India accuses Pakistan of interfering in occupied Kashmir, Pakistan puts up a proposal to have the LOC under U.N. supervision. But, India does not accept it. India also does not want the representatives of human rights organizations to visit occupied Kashmir and see for themselves the human rights violations there. Pakistan has positively responded to every positive proposal and will continue to do so. India should have the moral courage within itself to accept the proposal to let the LOC be supervised by the U.N. forces or the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. Pakistan is also ready to consider the reduction of forces along the LOC.

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